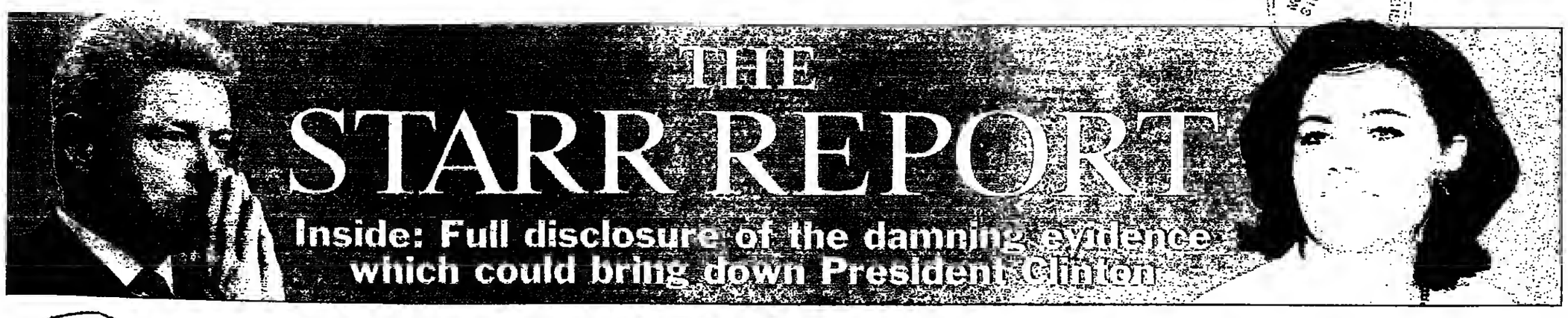


THE TIMES

No. 66,305 | SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12 1998 | http://www.the-times.co.uk

Impeach Clinton — Starr

President fights for his life

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

KENNETH STARR last night urged Congress to remove Bill Clinton from the presidency of the United States, accusing him of criminal misconduct in an explosive report that sets out in sensational detail the President's sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

Mr Starr accuses Mr Clinton of criminal misconduct in trying to cover up the affair, says he lied under oath before a grand jury, and that he "engaged in a pattern of conduct inconsistent with his constitutional duty to faithfully execute the laws" of the United States.

Among other details of a dozen sexual encounters, the report confirms the longstanding rumour that a stain on Monica Lewinsky's dark blue dress was caused by Mr Clinton's semen — the piece of evidence that finally forced the President to confess to the affair.

The Starr report says: "According to Ms Lewinsky, the President touched her breasts and genitalia". It says that their ten encounters included oral sex but not sexual intercourse. In the early stages of the affair, she says, the President would not let her perform oral sex 'to completion' because of his "refusal to trust and not knowing her well enough."

The President called Monica "Sweetie", "Baby" and sometimes "dear", the report says. She told investigators that he used to lean against the door while she performed oral sex "to ease his back" and while he was having telephone conversations with people she believed were members of Congress.

She also said that Mr Clinton brought her to orgasm twice and she confided: "I never expected to find love with the President. I was surprised by the gifts."

Ms Lewinsky, in hiding in Washington yesterday, was said to be feeling suicidal and to be stricken with guilt over her testimony to Mr Starr, which provided the crucial details that could bring Mr Clinton down. "Harming him is the last thing in the world I wanted to do," she says in the Starr report.

But Mr Clinton — who yesterday made his first public apology to Ms Lewinsky and her family — is now facing the battle of his life, and last night he sent his lawyers into an immediate stinging counter-attack, accusing Mr Starr of deliberate entrapment, and of failing to prove any allegations in a four-year, $40 million investigation. They also claim that Mr Starr has included salacious explicit details in his report merely to humiliate the President.

David Kendall, Mr Clinton's personal lawyer, said that the President had tried "to keep an inappropriate relationship private", and gave "misleading answers" when questioned under oath. But he had not committed perjury nor obstructed justice, nor done anything else to justify impeachment.

Just hours before the Starr report detonated on Capitol Hill, Mr Clinton gave the most extraordinary and personal speech ever delivered by an American President in an attempt to avoid having to resign in disgrace.

"I don't think there is a fancy way to say that I have sinned", he said in a choked voice to a breakfast of religious leaders. Calling himself "broken-spirited" and genuinely repentant, he called on Americans to forgive him.

For the first time, Mr Clinton made a direct apology to Ms Lewinsky, acknowledging that their affair had wrecked her life. "It is important to me that everybody who has been hurt know that the sorrow I feel is genuine — first and most important, my family, also my friends, my staff, my Cabinet, Monica Lewinsky and her family, and the American people," he said.

The ten-minute speech was a demonstration of the talent that made Bill Clinton's career: finding at the moment of crisis his most powerful, personal voice. But the White House is terrified that his appeal for forgiveness will be eclipsed by salacious details of sex play with a cigar on the President's desk and during telephone conversations with members of Congress.

Apart from recounting in detail sexual encounters between Mr Clinton and Ms Lewinsky in his study behind the Oval Office, it lists 11 grounds for impeachment. Those charges — including perjury, obstruction of justice and abuse of presidential power — threaten to make Mr Clinton the first president to face impeachment hearings since Richard Nixon resigned in 1974.

A lawyer close to the report has said: "It reads like a novel. It accuses the President of lying and lying and lying again."

The release of the report on the Internet yesterday afternoon triggered one of cyberspace's worst traffic jams as the world rushed to its computer keyboards to discover the details of the affair.

Mr Clinton's lawyer David Kendall has called the report "simply a collection of their contentions, claims and allegations" about the President's affair with Ms Lewinsky. He is looking forward to carrying out Mr Clinton's instruction "to mount a vigorous defence using all appropriate arguments".

In a 73-page preliminary statement, ahead of the report's publication, Mr Kendall said: "This private mistake does not amount to an impeachable action. The president's offences do not amount to criminal misconduct or to high crimes or misdemeanours." The document adds forcefully: "The President did not facilitate any help Ms Lewinsky received in getting a job in the private sector." One of Mr Starr's most serious charges is that the President tried to buy her silence with a job.

Mr Kendall was racing yesterday to draft Mr Clinton's formal rebuttal, after Congress rejected his appeal for an advance copy. Henry Hyde, Republican Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, which will now begin debating the report in secret, said "The President knows what is in the report better than anyone on the planet". He accused the White House of wanting to "get the spin machine going" and to grab a public relations advantage. "He will have his people present during the executive sessions — the same courtesy extended to Mr Nixon — the same and no more," Mr Hyde said.

Mr Hyde's committee will be the only body to see the 2,600 pages of appendices which are not being released, but Congress will debate whether parts will eventually see the light of day.

In his speech to the prayer meeting, Mr Clinton made the profound, unequivocal statement of remorse which many feel he should have made on August 17 when he first confessed the affair to the nation.

"I agree with all those who have said that, in my first statement after I testified, I was not contrite enough", he said. "If my repentance is genuine and sustained, and if I can then maintain both a broken spirit and a strong heart, then good can come of this for our country, as well as for me and my family."

But while he pledged to "continue on the path of repentance seeking pastoral support and that of other caring people so that they can hold me accountable for my own commitment", the President also declared that he would tell his lawyers to mount "a vigorous defence using all available, appropriate arguments".

Mr Clinton at a service for victims of the American Embassy bombings yesterday

Humble pie for breakfast

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

TEARS welling in his eyes, and head bowed, Mr Clinton told America's religious leaders yesterday that he would pursue the path of humility and repentance with a "broken spirit".

Rising to the greatest crisis of his life with the most emotional and religious vocabulary he has ever deployed, Mr Clinton acknowledged that "I have sinned" and called for the nation's forgiveness.

But while the speech showed him at the height of his rhetorical power, Mr Clinton appeared desperate to show that the experience has chastened and changed him, and that it was not the facile, fluent words of the character dubbed "Slick Willie".

To spontaneous murmurings of "amen" and "yes sir", Mr Clinton said he understood that "I must have God's help to be the person that I want to be".

The annual prayer breakfast in the White House for 125 religious leaders has loomed for weeks as a forum where Mr Clinton would be confronted with his moral failings by public figures who have nothing to gain by standing by him.

Many religious leaders arrived at the White House under intense pressure from parishioners to condemn the President in order to hold up the nation's moral standards. The leader of the Southern Baptists, the denomination to which the President belongs, has condemned his behaviour.

Although Mr Clinton was enveloped by black-clothed bear hugs after he finished his speech, many religious leaders were still expected to take a cool view of his claim still to be the nation's moral leader.

Looking sombre and shaken, Mr Clinton did his best to satisfy criticism that he has not shown enough contrition.

Stressing how the "journey of the last few weeks" had changed him profoundly, he said: "I may not be quite as easy with my words today as I have been in years past. I was up rather late last night thinking about and praying about what I ought to say today. And rather unusually for me, I actually tried to write it down".

The reading glasses he then perched on his nose are rarely seen in public, as the President normally relies on his fluency to improvise answers on the run. They added to the picture of frailty and physical failings.

"To be forgiven, more than sorrow is required", he said. "At least two more things: genuine repentance, a determination to change and to repair breaches of my own making" and "what my Bible calls a broken spirit, an understanding that I must have God's help to be the person that I want to be."

He said he would seek "pastoral support" to "hold me accountable for my own commitment".

Although Mr Clinton pledged to fight vigorously, he emphasised that "legal language must not obscure the fact that I have done wrong". On an equally humble note, he thanked those who said that "the bounds of privacy have been excessively and unwisely invaded", but added: "In this case, it may be a blessing because I still sinned."

Hillary Clinton was present but did not speak publicly.

'To be forgiven, more than sorrow is required: genuine repentance and what my Bible calls a broken spirit'

CLINTON AT BAY

2: How the US rids itself of an unwanted chief executive
3: He should have concentrated on his First Lady
4: Middle America will be the jury
5: Getting to grips with the yuk factor
21: No comebacks for the man from Hope, Arkansas
25-27: The Starr Report: partial text
28: Simon Jenkins on public failings, private deceits
29: Leading article and letters
32: Peter Brookes

REGULAR FEATURES

WEATHER 32
CROSSWORD 32
COURT & SOCIAL 30
OBITUARIES 31
THEATRES 21
UNIT TRUSTS 54
SPORT 33-45
WEEKEND
GARDENING 11, 12
PROPERTY 14-17
TRAVEL 25-32

BUSINESS and WEEKEND MONEY pages 49-64

The facts of life.

Prepare yourself for a shock.

You may be paying well over the odds for your fixed term or mortgage protection life cover, and one quick phone call to Direct Line could change all that. Don't say we didn't tell you.

Male 35 next birthday non-smoker – monthly premiums.			
Sum assured £100,000 20 year term	Per Annum	Total paid over 20 year term	Saving with Direct Line
Direct Line	£202.20	£4044.00	–
Abbey National Life	£272.64	£5452.80	£1408.80
Nationwide Life	£294.00	£5880.00	£1836.00

Source: Life and Pensions MoneyFacts – July 1998

0845 3000 233
Weekdays 8am-8pm and Saturdays 9am-5pm
DIRECT LINE

Pop pensioners say they are too old at 35

BY CHRIS AYRES

POP STARS are recognising that the pursuit of eternal youth is a vain quest and are lobbying the Inland Revenue to allow them to draw on their pensions at the age of 35 instead of 50.

A group of leading music industry accountants, thought to represent acts ranging from Simply Red to East 17, is proposing that pop stars should be treated in the same way as wrestlers, dancers and footballers.

The law currently allows professionals from these fields to draw on their personal pensions at the age of 35, thereby benefitting from various tax breaks, because at that age their careers are considering to be effectively over.

If the rules were changed to include pop stars, Jarvis Cocker, the lead singer of Pulp, could start drawing on his pension next week, while Tracy Thorn of Everything But the Girl would already be a year past pensionable age. Noel Gallagher of Oasis would have only four years to wait.

An Inland Revenue offical said: "Part of the problem is the definitionof a pop music recording artist. Recording is not necessarily the only way pop stars can get earnings."

The reluctance to change the rules is highlighted by the success of the Rolling Stones. The group's 54-year-old lead singer, Mick Jagger, is thought to be worth £140 million and is still raking in cash from world tours and record sales. His band, once famed for its wild excesses, recently refused to play in Britain because of changes to tax law.

Pop stars argue, however, that the Rolling Stones are an exception. The Association of Music Industry Accountants say that 62 per cent of the 1,133 artists who had albums in the Top 100 between 1958 and 1995, found their career fizzled out after just one year. Nine per cent enjoyed careers lasting between two and three years. The rest stayed in the limelight for more than five years.

"It's Mick Jagger — he wants 20 years' retirement back pay"

Buying The Times overseas
Austria Sch 60; Belgium B Frs 110; Canada $5.00; Canaries Pts 325; Cyprus C£1.75; Denmark Dkr 26.00; Finland Fmk 36.50; France F 18.00; Germany DM 6.50; Gibraltar £1.30; Greece Dr 1,000; Netherlands Fl 6.50; Italy L 6,500; Luxembourg Lf 100; Madeira Esc 500; Malta 95c; Morocco Dir 40.00; Norway Kr 30.00; Portugal Esc 500; Spain Pts 475; Sweden Skr 35.00; Switzerland S Frs 5.50; Tunisia Din 4.750; USA $5.00.
Periodicals Postage Paid at Rahway NJ Postmaster: Send address corrections to: The Times c/o Mercury International 365 Blair Road Avenel NJ 07001.

37
9 770140 046664

CLINTON AT BAY

An emotionally charged President at the White House breakfast prayer yesterday. "And rather unusually for me, I actually tried to write it down"

'There is no fancy way to say I sinned'

PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH

Remorks by President Clinton at o prayer breakfast ot the White House yesterdoy:

THANK you very much, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the White House and to this day to which Hillary and the Vice-President and I look forward so much every year.

This is always an important day for our country for the reasons that the Vice-President said. It is an unusual — and I think unusually important — day today.

I may not be quite as easy with my words today as I have been in years past, and I was up rather late last night thinking about and praying about what I ought to say today. And rather unusually for me, I actually tried to write it down.

Sn if you will forgive me, I will do my best to say what it is I want to say to you. And I may have to take my glasses out to read my own writing.

First, I want to say to all of you that, as you might imagine, I have been on quite a journey these last few weeks to get to the end of this, to the rock bottom truth of where I am and where we all are. I agree with those who have said that, in my first statement after I testified, I was not contrite enough. I don't think there is a fancy way to say that I have sinned. It is important to me that everybody who has been hurt know that the sorrow I feel is genuine — first and most important, my family, also my friends, my staff, my Cabinet, Monica Lewinsky and her family, and the American people.

I have asked all for their forgiveness. But I believe that to be forgiven, more than sorrow is required. At least two more things: first, genuine repentance, a determinarion to change and to repair breaches of my own making. I have repented.

Second, what my Bible calls a broken spirit. An understanding that I must have God's help to be the person that I want to be. A willingness to give the very forgiveness I seek.

A renunciation of the pride and the anger, which cloud judgment, lead people to excuse and compare and to blame and complain. Now, what does all this mean for me and for us?

First, I will instruct my lawyers to mount a vigorous defence using all available, appropriate arguments. But legal language must not obscure the fact that I have done wrong. Second, I will continue on the path of repentance seeking pastoral support and there's of other — and that of other caring people so that they can hold me accountable lor my own commitment.

Third, I will intensify my efforts to lead our country and the world loward peace and freedom, prosperity and harmony.

And in the hope that with a broken spirit and a still strong heart, I can be used for greater good for we have many blessings and many challenges and so much work to do.

In this, I ask for your prayers and for your help in healing our nation. And though I cannot move beyond or forget this, indeed I must always keep it as a caudon light in my life. It is very important that our nation move forward.

I am very grateful for the many, many people — clergy and ordinary citizens alike — who have written me with wise counsel. I am profoundly grateful for the support of so many Americans who somehow, through it all, seem to srill know that I care about them a great deal, that I care about their problems and their dreams.

I am grateful for those who have stood by me and who say that, in this case and many others, the bounds of privacy have been excessively and unwisely invaded. That may be.

Nevertheless, in this case, it may be a blessing because I still sinned.

And if my repentance is genuine and sustained, and if I can then maintain both a broken spirit and a strong heart, then good can come of this for our country, as well as for me and my family.

The children of this country can learn in a profound way that integrity is important and selfishness is wrong.

But God can change us and make us strong at the broken places.

I want to embody those lessons for the children of this country; for that little boy in Florida who came up to me and said that he wanted to grow up and be president and to be just like me. I want the parents of all the children in America to be able to say that to their children.

A couple of days ago when I was in Florida, a Jewish friend of mine gave me this liturgy book called Gates of Repentance. And there was this incredible passage from a Yom Kippur liturgy, and I would like to read it to you:

'Now is the time for turning. The leaves are beginning to turn from green to red to orange.

The birds are beginning to turn and are heading once more toward the south.

The animals are beginning to turn to storing their food for the winter.

For leaves, birds and animals, turning comes instinctively.

But for us, turning does not come so easily.

It takes an act of will for us to make a turn. It means breaking old habits.

It means admitting that we have been wrong, and this is never easy.

It means losing face. It means starting all over again. And this is always painful. It means saying I am sorry.

It means recognising that we have the ability to change. These things are terribly hard to do.

But unless we turn, we will be trapped forever in yesterday's ways.

Lord help us to turn from callousness to sensitivity, from hostility to love, from pettiness to purpose, from envy to contentment, from carelessness to discipline, from fear to faith.

Turn us around, oh, Lord, and bring us back toward you. Revive our lives as at the beginning.

And turn us toward each other, Lord, for in isolation, there is no life.'

I thank my friend for that and I thank you for being here. I ask you to share my prayer that God will search me and know my heart, try me and know my anxious thoughts, see if there is any hurtfulness in me and lead me toward a life everlasting.

I ask that God give me a clean heart, let me walk by faith and not sight.

I ask once again to be able to love my neighbour — all my neighbours — as myself, to be an instrument of God's peace, to let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart, and in the end, the work of my hands, be pleasing.

This is what I wanted to say to you today. Thank you, God bless you."

Lawyers launch a vigorous fightback

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

THE President's lawyers yesterday accused Kenneth Starr of "deliberate entrapment" in a furious preliminary counter-attack on his report.

Still in the dark about the report's exact contents, the President's personal lawyer, David Kendall, published a 73-page rebuttal as Mr Clinton declared that he would fight back vigorously.

Mr Kendall attacks Mr Starr for failing to build any case against the President in a four-year, $40 million inquiry until he "set him up" after stumbling on Mr Clinton's affair with Monica Lewinsky.

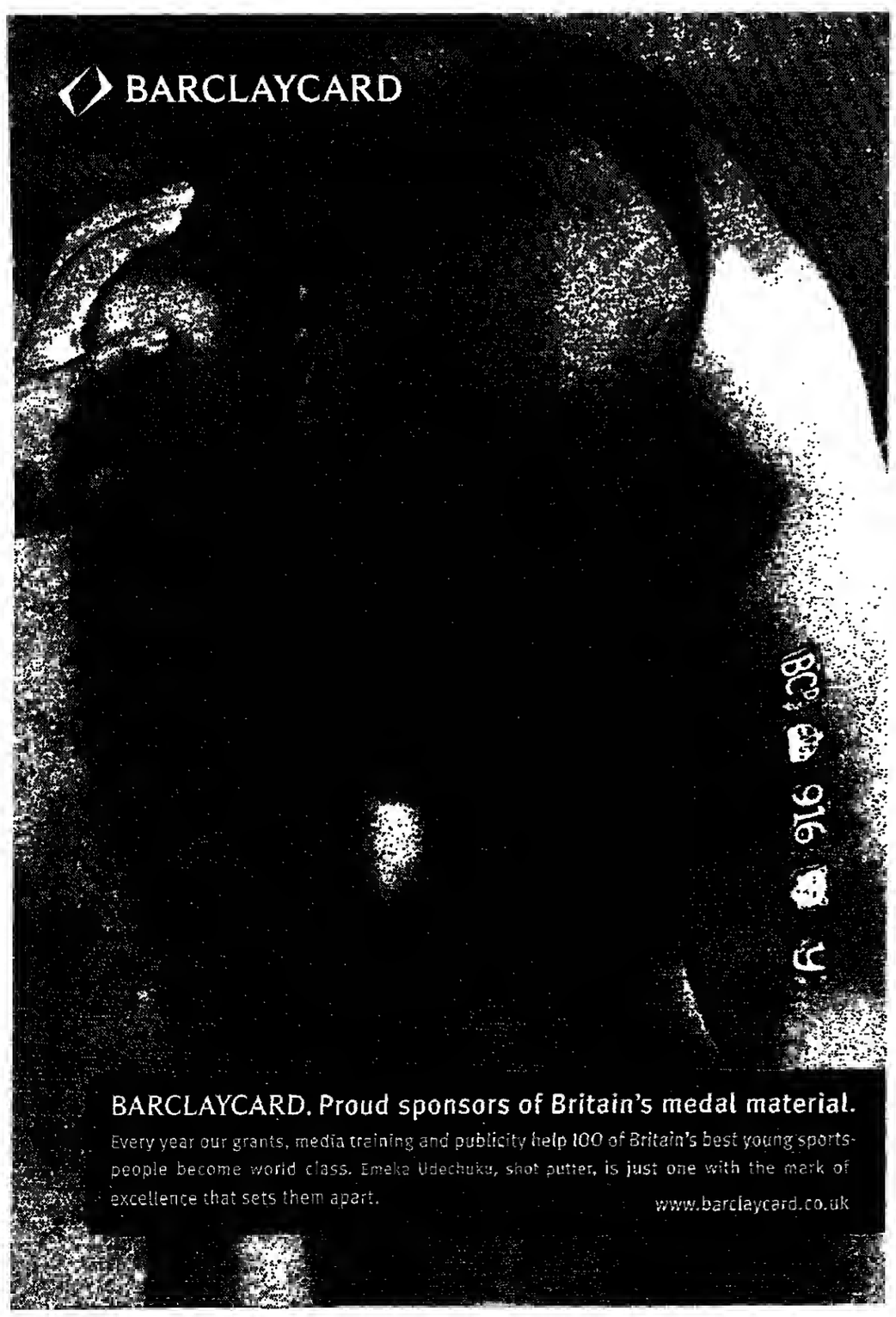
The counter-attack says that, although Mr Clinton acknowledges "a serious mistake", he is not guilty of the 11 charges Mr Starr has made.

In particular, says Mr Kendall, the President did not commit perjury on January 17 in his sworn deposition in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case, when he denied an affair with Ms Lewinsky.

Mr Kendall says that even if the President's answers were misleading, he did not commit perjury because the questions were not precise enough. "These encounters did not consist of sexual intercourse and they did not amount to sexual relations."

The preliminary rebuttal came as Mr Kendall lost his battle for an advance copy from Congress. The White House was hoping that its arguments would not be swamped by the volume and sensationalism of the 445-page report.

As a bitterly divided Congress argued about how to release the report, Henry Hyde, the Republican Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, declared that he saw no reason to give in to the White House's request. The President "knows what is in that report better than anyone on the planet", he said. Mr Hyde, whose committee is the first forum in which Mr Clinton's fate will be decided, said that he would extend "exactly the same courtesies" to Mr Clinton's staff as had been granted to President Nixon.



Charges linked solely to Lewinsky

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

BILL CLINTON faces 11 couots of perjury, obstruction of justice, witness-tampering and abuses of power in the report by Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, who says that they may constitute grounds for his impeachment.

The charges are linked solely to Mr Clinton's sexual involvement with Monica Lewinsky and his alleged attempts to cover it up.

The perjury charges arise from Mr Clinton's deposition in the Paula Jones case where he denied having "sexual relations" with Ms Lewinsky and did not recall being alone with her.

In his grand jury testimony, seven months later he acknowledged a physical relationship with Ms Lewinsky but argued that oral sex had not been covered by the definition of "sexual relations" that had been used in the Jones case and therefore his answers had been legally accurate.

However, after his grand jury appearance, Ms Lewinsky told Mr Starr that her sexual activities with Mr Clinton included mutual fondling that was explicitly covered by the Jones definition.

The obstruction of justice allegations stem from gifts Mr Clinton gave to Ms Lewinsky that were then retrieved by his secretary, Betty Currie, after Mr Starr tried to subpoena them.

The effort to find Ms Lewinsky a job, ostensibly in exchange for her silence, could be construed as both obstruction of justice and witness tampering.

Abuse-of-power charges may be Mr Starr's most controversial. He argues that Mr Clinton used his high office to try to hamper the grand jury by frivolously claiming that his aides and Secret Service bodyguards could not give evidence to the inquiry.

Mr Clinton's lawyers claim that he should not be taken to task for exercising his legal rights.

Power game with rules by the Founding Fathers

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

"Yes, the president should resign. He has lied to the American people time and time again, and betrayed their trust. He is no longer an effective leader. Since he has admitted guilt, there is no reason to put the American people through an impeachment. He will serve absolutely no purpose in finishing out his term, the only possible solution is for the president to save some dignity and resign."
—William Jefferson Clinton, 1974 on President Nixon.

THE sonorous words echo down the years, from George Washington. Ben Franklin and others as they struggled to write the US Constitution in 1787: "The House of Representatives shall have the sole Power of Impeachment."

To impeach means to charge a public official with an offence committed in office. The Founding Fathers, newly independent from Britain, were determined to banish "high crimes and misdemeanours" from public service.

They gave the Senate the power to try any individual impeached by the House. Conviction requires the vote of at least two-thirds of the senators and must be followed by the individual's removal from office. It is this guidance, written in Philadelphia 211 years ago, that must now be applied by Congress to Bill Clinton.

A tentative timetable stretching months ahead is slowly falling into place. Yesterday, the full House was voting on a recommendation from the Rules Committee to release Kenneth Starr's report on Mr Clinton's relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

The resolution also empowers the House Judiciary Committee to consider whether formal impeachment hearings should be undertaken. By September 28, the committee must recommend to the House which other parts of Mr Starr's material, including Mr Clinton's videotaped grand jury testimony, should be made public. Congress is due to adjourn on October 9 to allow members to campaign for re-election on November 7. They may then be called back before the end of the year to decide if to proceed with impeachment hearings that would not begin until January.

In the Watergate hearings, the Judiciary Committee agreed on three articles of impeachment — the equivalent of indictments — against Richard Nixon, but he resigned before they were voted on by the full House. If the House does approve the articles of impeachment they are passed along to the Senate for trial with the chief justice of Supreme Court, William Rehnquist, presiding.

During a trial, the president's private lawyers could cross-examine witnesses and call defence witnesses, including Mr Clinton who could also be questioned by senators. Senators would go into closed session when the evidence ends to consider their verdict but their vote would be in public, each senator standing at his or her desk to announce the verdict on each count.

Only one president has been subject to such drama. Andrew Johnson was twice tried by the Senate in 1868 amid politically inspired allegations of corruption and interfering with elections.

He was acquitted both times by one vote. But 15 other officials, mostly corrupt judges, have been impeached. Seven were convicted and removed from office and three resigned before their Senate trial began.

Cabinet onslaught over morals

BY BRONWEN MADDOX

THE President was infuriated in a turbulent and emotionally-charged meeting with his Cabinet when one of the most prominent women in his Administration took him to task for his morally lax behaviour.

Donna Shalala, Health and Human Services Secretary, was the most outspoken critic within the Cabinet, accusing Mr Clinton of failing to provide the US with moral leadership in an unexpectedly "harsh" assessment.

Her remarks came near the start of the tense meeting, the first assembly of the full Cabinet since the President's vigorous denial nf the Lewinsky scantial in January, when three of its leading members stood in drizzling rain in front of the nation's television cameras to defend him. None of that trio — notably Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State — have commented on the President's admission of a sexual affair with the young intern.

In the meeting on Thursday afternoon, many members took it in turn to say how much they felt the President had personally let them down.

With tears in his eyes, Mr Clinton pleaded with his Cabinet to forgive him and to stand by him during this crucial weekend after the publication of the Starr report, according to those present.

But it was Ms Shalala's account which cut short his now-fluent expressions of regret, members said. She attacked his implication, as she saw it, that policies and programmes were more important than moral leadership. "I can't believe that is what you're telling us, that is what you believe, that you don't have an obligation to provide moral leadership," she said, according to reports. "I don't care about the lying, but I'm appalled at the behaviour."

The attack, which took the highly-strung President by surprise, provoked an immediate and furious rebuttal. He "let her have it", said one of those present, according to reports.

He returned several times to the point, emphasising that he did indeed think that moral leadership was important. "It's more important to be a good person than a good President and I'm going to spend the rest of my life trying to atone for this."

Rodney Slater, the Transport Secretary said: "It was not like any other Cabinet meeting, for sure".

هكذا من الأصل

CLINTON AT BAY

'If only he had applied his mind to make Hillary valued emotionally and sexually'

The President must realise intelect is useless if you cannot educate yourself emotionally, writes **Sandra Parsons**

The Bill Clinton saga is moving inexorably towards what any woman who has ever been betrayed will recognise as a glorious ending. The most powerful man in the world, a man with an unusually gifted mind and an extraordinary sexual charisma, has shown himself to be fatally uneducated in the most important subject of all — emotional intelligence.

He is on course to achieve the complete alienation of the three most important women in his life: his wife, his daughter and his mistress.

Hillary, who is at least as intellectually capable as her husband, is concentrating on raising her profile to the maximum (her ratings have never been higher) in order to move smoothly into a political career in her own right when, as now seems inevitable, her husband is no longer President.

Their daughter, Chelsea, has gone back to Stamford to resume her medical studies and will surely take many years to forgive her father for his appalling betrayal and humiliation of her.

And Monica Lewinsky, his voluptuous, black-haired Nemesis, is turning in on herself in a frenzy of self-loathing so acute that her mother fears she may commit suicide.

How did it all go so wrong? After all, this was by no means Bill's first affair and previously he has always managed to get away with it. Adulterers, you see, often do — particularly when they are powerful. They rely on either buying-off, intimidating or demeaning their mistress to such an extent that when the affair is over she is either too scared or too humiliated (and often both) to do any public damage.

With Monica, Clinton seems to have plumped for the buying-off option, not in terms of money (her parents are wealthy) but in terms of love, the thing that to Monica matters more than any millions ever could. Foolish, foolish Bill appears to have allowed her to believe that he would one day leave Hillary for her. And then, when the going looked as though it was getting a little tough back in January this year, he made a deadly error: he openly showed his contempt of Monica, who loved him with her silly heart and soul, by referring to her on television as "that woman".

The sad truth is that, when it came to reading Monica, the most powerful man in the world might as well have never learned the alphabet. This is a girl who, when she heard Clinton refer to their relationship as a mistake, scrawled "I'm a mistake" in scarlet lipstick on her bathroom mirror and then, weeping, said: "I've been a mistake all my life. Nobody loves me."

If Clinton had even a grain of that most desirable Nineties quality, emotional intelligence, he would have realised that Monica was without doubt the most dangerous sort of woman with whom to have an affair. She is needy, desperate and utterly imature.

Clinton, of course, made the classic mistake of telling her that his wife was "cold and inadequate" in bed. What music that must have been to poor Monica's ears. She would provide what the First Lady could not. She would cavort with the Presidential cigar (on one occasion so delightfully, apparently, that an entranced Clinton kept Yassir Arafat waiting); she would dance so seductively as to make Salome and her seven veils seem prissy; she would raunch for the world when Bill (or Fface, as she nicknamed him) rang her flat in the small hours to "talk dirty."

She was 14 when her parents divorced. Her father Bernard, a cancer specialist, moved out of the $1.6 million Beverly Hills home, and he and Monica became estranged. Like many children of divorced parents, Monica had a terrible lack of self-confidence.

Women like Monica generally destroy the men they set their sights on and Clinton is no excpetion. What makes his blindness so interesting is the fact that he, more than anyone, ought to have understood what drives her. After all, he too is motivated by one overwhelming desire: to be loved. Admittedly, he played for bigger stakes, but basically Bill, had he chosen to, really *could* have felt (and more importantly, understood) Monica's pain.

After all, he was the son of a philanderer father who deserted the marriage early on, and a manipulative mother, Virginia, whose overriding concern in life was not to be a strong mother but to have a man (she married four times) who she always, and wrongly, imagined would help her block out life's unpleasantness.

> When it came to reading Monica, the President might as well have never learnt the alphabet

Which brings us to Hillary. Marrying the plain but fearsomely bright Yale Law student was probably the smartest thing, in emotional intelligence terms, that Bill Clinton ever did. But Bill failed to follow through. It is a fair bet that Hillary's weakness is a lack of sexual confidence; the glossy, power-dressed First Lady is a recent phenomenon, and it is important to remember that for most of their marriage Hillary has been physically unalluring.

How, one wonders, might things have been different if Clinton had taken the trouble to boost his wife's physical and sexual ego? If he had applied his agile politician's mind to making his marriage work on every level? To making Hillary feel valued emotionally and sexually as well as for her brilliant analytical skills?

Unlike Monica, Hillary has long moved up and away from her husband in every direction except politically. She set aside her own career not just for her husband but for Chelsea, to whom she appears to have been the sort of maternal buttress her husband and his mistress were denied. Doubtless she made a pact with herself years ago that although she could never satisfy her husband in bed, she could be a good mother and a formidable First Lady — and as long as Bill was discreet she would look the other way.

She famously stood by her man in 1992 over Gennifer Flowers, and when Bill told her six years later that Monica Lewinsky was lying and that there was nothing damaging to be revealed, she believed him. As a wife and as a mother she was therefore totally unprepared for the subsequent sordid turn of events. And for that she will never forgive him — although she will do all she can to ensure he sees out his Presidential term.

So what will happen to All The President's Women? Well, probably this: Monica will realise Bill is not worth dying for and will sell her story; Hillary will successfully further her own career; Chelsea will spend a long time hating the father she once revered.

And probably Bill Clinton, in common with countless other politicans and legions of the so-called great and the good, will fail to realise the simple truth: relationships are important; morals do matter. All the intellect in the world is useless if you cannot educate yourself emotionally.

DIRCK HALSTEAD / TIME / GAMMA LIAISON

Hillary Clinton waits outside the Oval Office in Washington this week as her husband, right, with Monica Lewinsky two years ago, speaks to the press about an airline strike

Silent Lewinsky in grip of 'colossal depression'

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

AS President Clinton made his most profuse apology so far for his conduct, he singled out yesterday one American by name. Unfortunately, his appeal to Monica Lewinsky for forgiveness may have come too late for either of them.

As the whole world seemed to be scrambling to read the gory details of what she had said about their games in the Oval Office, Miss Lewinsky herself was out of sight and maintaining her vow of public silence. The woman whose confessions could be about to bring down a President was believed to be in Washington, but was lying low. Her depression is said to be colossal.

The former White House trainee, who "sang" to a friend and the special prosecutor about her relationship with Mr Clinton, is arguably the most famous woman in America just now, but almost nobody knows what her voice sounds like.

However, as members of Congress prepared to hear her, on tapes recorded by her former friend Linda Tripp that are among the material Kenneth Starr sent with his report, the President might be reflecting that if only he had apologised sooner, or, indeed, contacted her personally, the mess he is in would not be quite so unpleasant.

For it is understood that some of the most damaging evidence that Miss Lewinsky gave about their relationship came in her second appearance before the grand jury and in a further private session with Mr Starr.

They came after President Clinton's own evidence and his national television address that same day. His portrayal of his relationship with Miss Lewinsky as trifling dalliances hurt and angered her and it was then that she told Mr Starr that *their relationship* was more than that. It is this evidence that the independent prosecutor regarded as the key to his case that the President had committed perjury both in his evidence in the Paula Jones case and at his grand jury hearing.

If the President's dismissal of their relationship has landed him on the rack, one can only imagine what it, and the resulting developments, have done to Miss Lewinsky. She was said yesterday by those close to her to be having "her ups and downs".

Her emotional torment is multilayered. She was clearly first infatuated and then in love with the President and appears to have believed, rightly or wrongly, that she might have had a future with him after his term in office. He seems to have been backing out of their relationship before the scandal broke and the tapes surreptitiously made by Ms Tripp are said to include passages in which she lambasts him furiously as "the big creep" and "schmucko".

But despite her anger, which led her to confess in greater, more damaging detail to Mr Starr, the burden of guilt after giving evidence against the man she had loved and who might consequently lose the most powerful job in the world, must be intolerable.

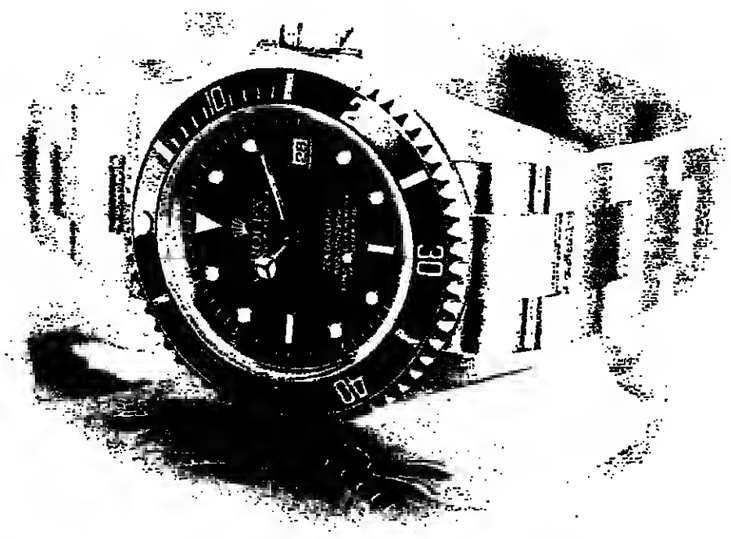
In the medium term she wants to return to California. She will find plenty of therapy couches there.

The divers of Comex have long been recognised as world leaders in undersea diving technology. Like every Comex diver, Theo Mavrostomos wears a standard-issue Rolex Sea-Dweller chronometer. Guaranteed waterproof to no less than 4,000 feet, the Sea-Dweller boasts a unique feature: a helium escape valve. The molecules of helium in the mixture that saturation divers breathe can penetrate everywhere – even into an Oyster case. The Sea-Dweller's unique valve allows these expanding gasses to escape safely when the diver ascends, thus preventing any risk of the case exploding. Meanwhile, who knows? One day a Comex diver might be able to go as deep as his Rolex.

THEO MAVROSTOMOS HAS BEEN TO A WORLD RECORD DEPTH OF 701 METRES IN A PRESSURE CHAMBER.

WITH THE WORLD'S SMALLEST DECOMPRESSION CHAMBER STRAPPED TO HIS WRIST.

ROLEX of Geneva



Sea-Dweller.
Officially Certified Swiss Chronometer.
For information on the Rolex range write to:
Rolex UK, 3 Stratford Place, London W1N 0ER
or telephone 0171-629 5071.

CLINTON AT BAY

Middle America to be the final judge

Tolerance seems to be gaining ground in a test of conflicting impulses, writes **Bronwen Maddox** in Washington

President Clinton's fate is likely to hang in the end on what Middle America thinks of the seamier details of the Starr report. It will prove a test of the nation's conflicting impulses: whether it liberally forgives him as a philanderer, or puritanically condemns him as a sexual pervert.

Washington is waiting to see whether Americans will take the worldly view — often dubbed "European" — that Mr Clinton and Ms Lewinsky were not the first couple in history to notice that certain everyday objects have a phallic shape, and to take advantage of this in their sexual play.

Mr Clinton's future is likely to hang on whether Americans can still consider him "one of them", or whether revelations about his behaviour have thrust him on the other side of the line dividing "normal" from "kinky".

He might take comfort from the fact that, as this saga has unfolded, and more details of the encounters between the President and the intern have leaked out, American tolerance appears to be winning over revulsion.

A rash of opinion polls last night confirmed that Americans were still inclined to forgive the President, and firmly opposed his impeachment or resignation. But most want some kind of formal censure by Congress as a mark of the severity of the charges.

However, pollsters pointed out that the surveys were conducted before the details of the report were widely available. Parents who have spent weeks trying to work out whether — or how — to explain oral sex to their children will now be confronted with even trickier scenes involving cigars, telephones and the President's desk.

While the frenzy over the report is at its greatest in Washington, politicians are also waiting to see if Middle America will follow suit in a few weeks, for all its present apparent indifference. It is often observed that an issue which dominates chatter in the nation's capital appears to die away, only to reignite with greater ferocity in the heartland after a disconcerting pause, taking many politicians by surprise.

The public's emotions were described yesterday as a "psychotic salad" of contradictions by one political commentator. "I just can't see him ever having any credibility with any foreign leaders," said Lowell Davis, a Midwestern artist in Missouri. But others, like Yvonne Badillo, 38, in New Jersey, argue that "every man does it".

In the latest Gallup/CNN/*USA Today* poll, his job approval is holding steady at 60 per cent, down by only two points since September 1. The great majority — 63 per cent — say he should not be impeached, and 61 per cent say he should not resign. But 58 per cent would like to see the compromise solution — a formal censure by Congress.

Seven in 10 did not want the sexual details released.

A separate, detailed survey by *The Washington Post* found that the Lewinsky scandal had deepened Americans' convictions that their country was on a path of moral decay. Despite eight years of prosperity, many Americans feel that trends as varied as obesity, alcoholism, and homelessness are signs of degeneracy.

The Vice-President, Al Gore, and Hillary Clinton were thought to embody more of ordinary American values than Mr Clinton. But in a blow for the House Speaker, Newt Gingrich, he ranked below even the President on the scale.

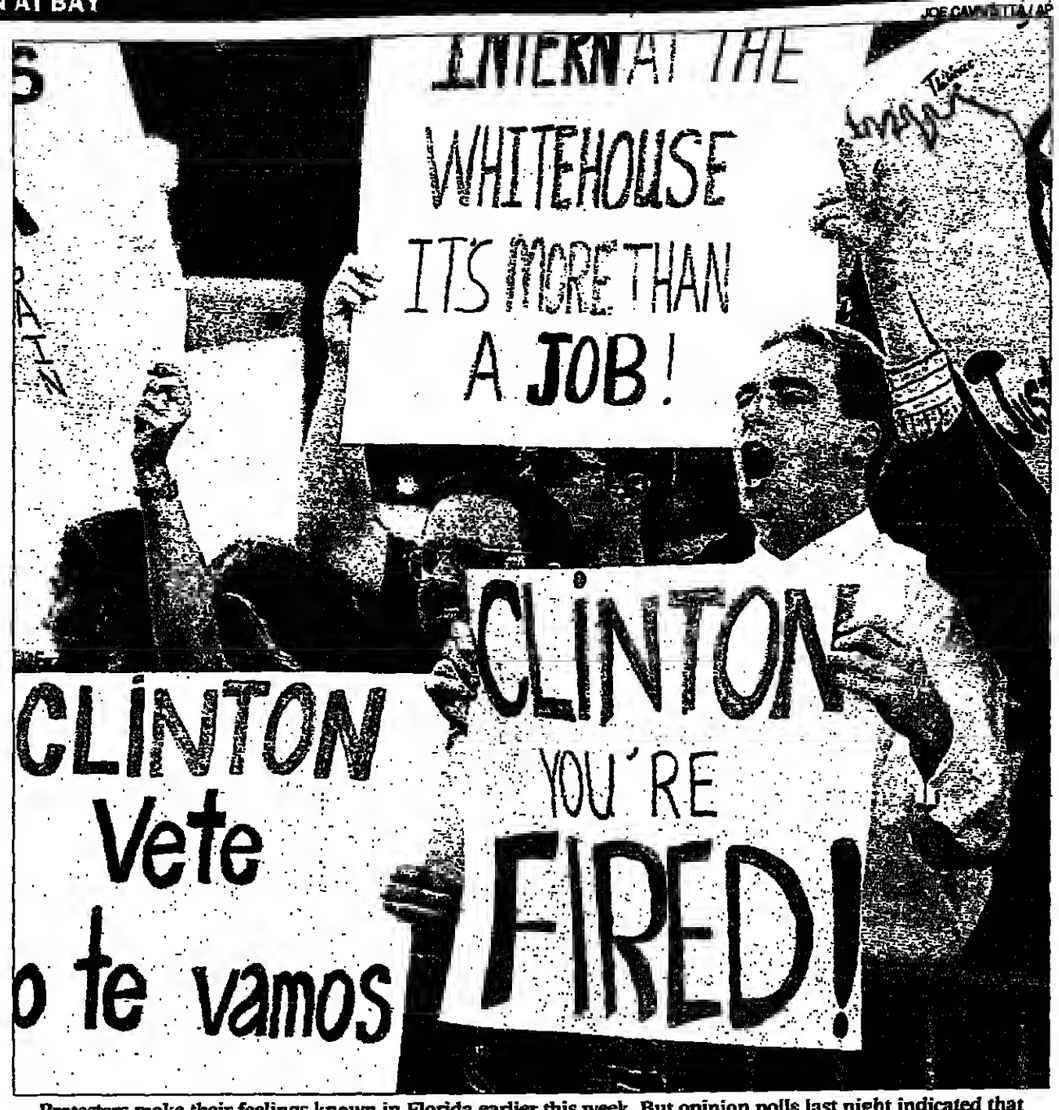
The survey found that nine out of ten Americans thought an affair by a married person was unacceptable. The figure was higher than for bearing a child outside marriage, smoking marijuana or same-sex marriage.

A worrying sign for Democrats in the November elections is that the percentage of Americans who say they trust the party to encourage "high moral standards and values" has fallen from 33 per cent in July, to 26 per cent last month.

Some reaction has even caused church rifts. R. Albert Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said that Mr Clinton's home church — Immanuel Baptist, in Little Rock — had an obligation to rebuke the President. "I would just say the church cannot be silent," Mr Mohler said. "That would be cowardice."

But Deacon Bob Gladden of Immanuel Baptist Church, said any sins by Mr Clinton were between the President and God. "We're not accountable to anybody as a church, but to the Lord," he said. "We resent all these people telling us how to run our business."

JOE CAVARETTA/AP

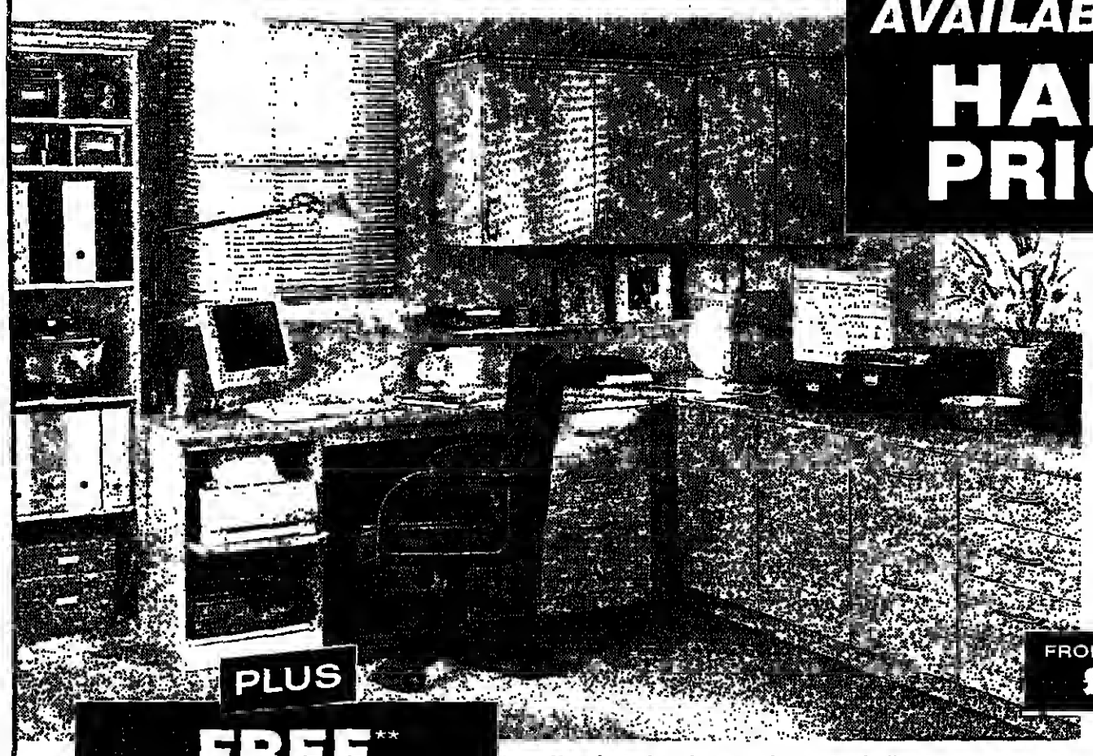


Protesters make their feelings known in Florida earlier this week. But opinion polls last night indicated that Americans were inclined to forgive the President and wanted him to avoid impeachment and stay in office

New from Sharps!

Fitted office furniture for the home.

NOW AVAILABLE AT HALF* PRICE



FROM AS LITTLE AS £800*

PLUS FREE** LUXURY LEATHER CHAIR worth £175 (As illustrated) WITH ALL QUALIFYING ORDERS THIS WEEK

If you're looking for great ideas in fitted office furniture then visit one of the many Sharps Home Office showrooms to see our range on display. Sharps is the UK's No.1 fitted furniture specialist and Sharps Home Office is designed to meet your exact needs, with shelving, cupboards, drawers, wall units, filing cabinets, extra deep desktops and a cable management system allowing easy access for simple maintenance.

With the current half price offer, which even applies to the popular Oak Finish, you can get your home office installed for as little as £800*. And if you place your order this week you'll get a Home Office chair absolutely free. Visit your Sharps Home Office showroom today.

SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE

LONDON
BAKER STREET 0171 486 4643
BRENTFORD (Homebase) 0181 568 6379
BECKTON (Allied Carpets) 0181 594 2171
BROMLEY 0181 466 9617
BROMLEY 0181 466 6549
CROYDON (Homebase) 0181 681 0195
CROYDON 0181 760 5026
FINCHLEY 0181 349 4377
HARROW 0181 424 9054
KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES 0181 546 1238
KILBROOKE (Homebase) 0181 319 3871
SUTTON 0181 642 6754
WALTHAMSTOW (Homebase) 0181 531 4744
WIMBLEDON (Homebase) 0181 944 7043
WOOD GREEN 0181 889 1657

SOUTH EAST
BANSTEAD 01737 370321
BASILDON Mayflower (Homebase) 01268 555317
CAMBERLEY 01276 691534
CAMBERLEY (Homebase) 01276 681581
CANTERBURY (Allied Carpets) 01227 788024
CHELMSFORD (Homebase) 01245 280900
CRAWLEY (Homebase) 01293 538329
EASTBOURNE 01323 470346
EPSOM 01372 744358
EWELL (Homebase) 0181 393 6479
FARNHAM 01252 733445
GRAVESEND (Great Mills) 01474 355001
GUILDFORD 01483 572121
ORPINGTON 01689 837724
RAYLEIGH (Homebase next to J. Sainsbury) 01268 776445
READING (Homebase) 0118 950 9980
ROMFORD (Homebase) 01708 752471
ST. ALBANS (Homebase) 01727 831731
STEVENAGE (Homebase) 01438 355919
TAPLOW, MAIDENHEAD 01628 605444
THURROCK 01708 860381
TUNBRIDGE WELLS (Homebase) 01892 548205
WALTHAM CROSS (Homebase) 01992 643150
WATFORD 01923 252724
WOKING 01483 728910

EAST ANGLIA
CAMBRIDGE 01223 350633
COLCHESTER St Andrews Way (Homebase) 01206 861821
IPSWICH (Homebase L'don Road) 01473 226009
IPSWICH (Homebase F'stowe Road) 01473 731085
KING'S LYNN 01553 769892
NORWICH (Homebase) 01603 487525
PETERBOROUGH (Great Mills) 01733 897986
PETERBOROUGH 01733 311700

SOUTH
BOURNEMOUTH Winton 01202 529374
BRIGHTON 01273 220619
CHICHESTER (Homebase) 01243 530926
FAREHAM 01489 581630
HOVE (Homebase) 01273 723966
NEWBURY 01635 569523
POOLE (Great Mills) 01202 718327
PORTSMOUTH (Homebase) 01705 200340
SALISBURY (Homebase) 01722 416172
SOUTHAMPTON (Homebase) 01703 510198
SOUTHAMPTON (Great Mills) 01489 780763
SOUTHAMPTON (Debenhams) 01703 237037
WALTON-ON-THAMES 01932 244868

THE MIDLANDS
BIRMINGHAM 0121 631 1580
COVENTRY (Homebase) 01203 679207
DERBY (Meteor Centre) 01332 835299
DERBY (Homebase) 01332 383538
HEREFORD 01432 351501
LEICESTER (Homebase) 0116 2541363
LINCOLN (Homebase) 01522 513101
MILTON KEYNES (Homebase) 01908 234849
NORTHAMPTON (Homebase) 01604 408004
OXFORD (Homebase) 01865 777170
SHREWSBURY (Homebase) 01743 460754
SOLIHULL 0121 705 6386
WALSALL 01922 635057
WOLVERHAMPTON (Homebase) 01902 571312
WORCESTER (Homebase) 01905 424502

WALES & THE WEST
BRISTOL 0117 9253185
BRISTOL (Homebase) 0117 9315093
CARDIFF 01222 222517
CARDIFF (Homebase) 01222 463086
CHELTENHAM (Homebase) 01242 584331
EXETER 01392 433065
GLOUCESTER (Great Mills) 01452 382446
LLANDUDNO (Allied Carpets) 01492 872280
LLANTRISANT 01443 222945
MERTHYR TYDFIL 01685 722744
NEWPORT (Homebase) 01633 816670
NEWTON ABBOT (Homebase) 01626 334291
PLYMOUTH 01752 603482
SHREWSBURY (Homebase) 01743 460754
SWANSEA 01792 790070
SWINDON (Homebase) 01793 490703
TAUNTON (Allied Carpets) 01823 334060
YEOVIL 01935 427576

VISIT YOUR NEAREST SHARPS HOME OFFICE SHOWROOM THIS WEEK OR CALL 0800 32 32 32

SHARPS Home Office
THE NEXT HOME IMPROVEMENT

*Selected ranges. Reductions taken from current list price. Minimum list price £800. **Applies to orders of £1500 or above

Memories of Nixon's end bring Wall Street fears of another slump

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

FEARS are spreading on Wall Street that President Clinton's problems will endanger American pensions and investments, just as the threat of a Nixon impeachment coincided with the last great economic slump.

Shops are already selling bumper stickers — irrepressible signposts to the US zeitgeist — with the question: "Forget Paula Jones — how's Dow Jones?"

Answering irate calls from investors, brokers have blamed Asian and Russian turmoil in recent weeks. But the continuing market plunge this week is being linked in part to the President's problems.

Foreign investors, including many Britons, had moved their money into US shares, seeking shelter from the toppling so-called "Tiger" economies. Now they are reversing their decisions out of fear about the US economy and the strength of the dollar.

Peter Canelo, a stock market strategist at the investment bank Morgan Stanley, said: "I think the argument whether Clinton is important to the markets has been settled. It has caused a huge break in the dollar. For foreign investors that means a double whammy." Britons pulling their money out of America now are hit by lower share prices and a worsening exchange rate.

Gregory Vallicre, an analyst at Charles Schwab, a large brokerage, said: "I have gotten calls from foreign clients and they're startled to hear the word impeachment."

Wall Street hates uncertainty like that experienced this week, when no official information is available and all carefully crafted analysis models become obsolete.

Reliable sources and good rumours become the only rising currencies. Liz Ann Sonders, a money manager in New York, said: "When you are in a period of uncertainty, and you have uncertainty in politics, it's just another black mark."

Wall Street is not particularly concerned about the personal fate of the President. Traders say they would prefer Mr Clinton to stay, but, most important, the issue should be resolved quickly to end the uncertainty. One trader said: "As far as my clients go, it doesn't matter who sits in the White House as long as the guy keeps quiet and doesn't interfere in our business."

Other Wall Street watchers, however, disagree that a quick departure by Mr Clinton would be beneficial. Al Gore, the Vice-President, has courted the environmentalist lobby for years and corporate chiefs worry that he could be more anti-business than Mr Clinton. This week Mr Gore cast a weary eye on the business world and said: "I think I have a very good relationship with the business community if you discount partisan politics."

His economic credentials are threadbare because he has kept out of the limelight whenever Mr Clinton addressed business issues. Wall Street has little idea of what he stands for or against, creating yet more uncertainty. Leslie Alperstein, an analyst at HSBC Markets, said: "Gore might have to choose a Vice-President. Who is that going to be?"

Older analysts have compared the situation to the slump in 1974 that was triggered by the oil crisis the year before but exacerbated by the Nixon resignation.

Between the election of 1972 and the President's resignation under threat of impeachment in 1974, the Dow Jones index fell almost 40 per cent. This summer, the Dow Jones fell close to 20 per cent.

Astonished world follows every sordid development

BY BRYAN BRUMLEY

ASIANS worry that the US presidential crisis could destabilize the world economy further. Russians have woes of their own. And some Frenchmen wonder why a leader might lose his office over a fling.

From Auckland to Amsterdam commentators and common folk gloomily watched the political drama surrounding President Clinton unfold on televisinn, on the Internet and in the press as Congress voted yesterday to release the report by Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor.

"There is no doubt that a weakened presidency, its energy to deal with global issues sapped, is bad news for the world," an editorial in Singapore's *Straits Times* said.

"Even if Clinton survives, his presidency is already dead," wrote the Washington correspondent of the Italian daily *La Repubblica*. "The forecasts for autumn aren't good: tempest over Washington, rain on all of us." In Australia, Mr Clinton's troubles knocked that country's national election campaign off the front pages of newspapers and formed the lead item of television and radio bulletins.

"Two dark vans that drove [the report] to the Capitol were akin to hearses arriving to take away the corpse of the Clinton presidency," wrote the US correspondent of *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

Some stood by the American President, despite the erosion of political support for Mr Clinton in America. Across Asia, Europe and the Middle East, newspapers and people expressed disbelief that Mr Clinton's extramarital sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky, and attempts to cover them up, should have so weakened what many regard as a successful presidency.

"The Clinton affair creates a climate of crisis in the world," the daily *Le Monde* said in a front-page headline. *Le Figaro* called the matter "a sad affair of sex in bad taste which goes beyond anything one could have imagined".

In France, as in many other countries, the intimate lives of politicians are not newspaper fodder. Early on in the Clinton-Lewinsky affair, many French people considered the issue a private one. François Minerrand, the late French President, had a wife and — an open secret — a lover and a daughter born out of wedlock before he became President.

In China, where the private lives of the secretive Communist Party leaders are off-limits, government-controlled reports on the scandal have been matter-of-fact.

Despite the official silence, Chinese leaders and foreign policy experts expressed concern that the crisis might imperil the rapprochement Mr Clinton and President Jiang Zemin symbolized in their recent summit in Beijing.

The Russian media almost ignored Washington, concentrating on the political woes of their own country. *(AP)*.

هكذا من الأصل

هذا من الأصل

CLINTON AT BAY

Nation face-to-face with the 'yuck factor'

Americans want a strong, confident leader: they do not want a shattered soul, writes **Joanna Coles** in New York

It was not what anyone had expected. "I have a broken spirit," the President told the religious leaders gathered at his power-prayer breakfast yesterday.

Not once, but twice. "A broken spirit but a strong heart. . . . There is not a fancy way to say I've sinned . . . the sorrow I feel is genuine." The White House had suddeoly been turned into a confessional chamber.

It was the speech his advisers had hoped he would give back in August. Indeed, they had even written a similar one for him, full of anguish and humility, which they hoped would appease the people and the politicians alike.

Instead, still fuelled by anger and hubris, Bill Clinton ripped h up and chose to blame Kenneth Starr for his problems. It didn't work.

By yesterday, he was positively begging, even asking forgiveoess from Monica Lewinsky, the very same person he had previously referred to in a finger-jabbing moment as "that woman". It was not an unconvincing speech, it was not unmoving. Who could doubt his claim that he was "up late last night praying", presidents are human after all. But they are also politicians and Bill Clinton is a consummate professional and a desperate man. It was too little and too late for him to rescue his presidency.

In the last 48 hours, the country which knowingly elected "Slick Willie" a second time and has stood loyally by him throughout the last 235 scandal-nourished days, suddenly appears to be less confident. Even though Hillary used the word "proud" four times in her introduction to Thursday's fundraiser, can anyone really feel pride in a President who has been caught with his boxers around his ankles? The semen-stained dress was bad enough, but talking to a member of Congress at the same time? Which one? As one pollster predicted: "It's the yuck factor that's going to do him in."

And what was that Cuban cigar doing on his desk in the first place? Forget the trade embargo, didn't he know that under Hillary's orders the White House is a no-smoking zone?

Up until Thursday the American people had made it clear: they really didn't care about what he got up to under his desk as long as things were in order on top. It's the economy, stupid. In poll after poll, they gave him a resounding two thumbs up. This was a President so popular that his personal ratings didn't just hold steady when he was rumbled: they actually increased.

No wonder he felt infallible. And until the last week, he looked it too. A month ago, when I saw him in East Hampton his huge, meaty diamond of a face was beaming with self-confidence. But as a leader in the *New York Times* observed yesterday: "In today's society, information is the antidote to political dysfunction". And Kenneth Starr's report is packed with 445 knowing pages.

The public's eyes have been forcibly opened and try as they might, they can't stop the images. As Carole Lieberman, a leading Los Angeles psychiatrist, remarked: "It's like hearing about your father's sex life. And the more you know about it, the more diminished he becomes."

In the last week Clinton not only appears to have shrunk physically, he's also lost weight. Yesterday one couldn't help noticing the large spot appearing above his left eyebrow. As he stood praying, he was pale and tired, a wounded bull, now reduced to limping uncertainly round the ring, waiting for the next blow. For the first time, you could see his own panicked realisation that he was in unfathomable trouble.

"I've done my best to be your friend," he told one audience of Democrats in a hoarse whisper, biting his bottom lip and staring into the middle distance.

"But I also let you down, and I let my family down. I'm trying to make it right", he said.

The appearance he made yesterday at the prayer meeting, where he quoted from a work on *repentence*, was merely another variadon on the same theme. While humility may be a great virtue, it rarely brings out the best in us. Watching him squirm and peeping occasionally during prayers, h was hard to believe that he was sorry for anything but himself.

He even seemed to be repressing a smirk, as if to say, "There I've said h again, can I go now?" No one doubts he is sorry, but not for having sex with Monica. Given the number of *times* h is alleged to have occured and the lengths he went to cover it up, there is every indication he thoroughly enjoyed it. He's only sorry he got caught.

Of course, the American public aren't stupid, they know all this and up until Starr's report became public they could and did choose to ignore it. Now, however, the Dow has dropped another 249 points and as their savings waver so does their loyalty. Clinton's bounce has disintegrated, he's struggling and they are losing patience. No amount of power-prayer meetings, public penance or bonding with Buddy, his chocolate-coloured labrador, can make up for their embarrassment at watching him grovel. It doesn't suit him. Even in liberal New York, the mood is Enough Already.

Overnight Al Gore's image has been transformed. Leaving aside the problem of campaign financing, which will bounce back to haunt him — he no longer looks dull, he looks stable. His marriage to the buoyant Tipper looks steady. The ethical civil war between those who feel Clinton's behaviour is unacceptable and those who feel he should be judged solely on his abilities as President, is gradually working its way to a traumatic conclusion.

Reports suggest that, having sat through the evidence, the members of the Grand Jury were far angrier with Clinton than anyone had predicted. Starr claims there are 11 grounds for possible impeachment, including allegations that Clinton lied recklessly to the Grand Jury and bought Lewinsky's silence by plying her with tempting job offers.

As he was leaving the White House for the fundraiser on Thursday evening, a reporter shouted after him: "Are you considering resigning?" He turned, smiling, and said nothing, but his look was ambiguous. Earlier that morning, after Democratic senators told him they could not guarantee his survival, be was close to tears.

> He was pale and tired, a wounded bull, reduced to limping round the ring

As long as Clinton believed in himself, the people could believe in him too, but that belief is faltering. His fear is infectious. America is not a compassionate country, neither does it forgive easily. "He was hurting," the energy secretary, Bill Richardson, reported after Thursday's meeting. "It was very emotional . . . a session of contrition."

"I agree with my critics, I was not contrite enough," Clinton admitted yesterday. But a Clinton humbled is not an attractive prospect. Americans hate losers. They don't want to see their President confessing a shattered spirit, they want a strong, confident, powerful leader to reflect their own aspirations, not a lost soul wandering the corridors of the White House without a moral compass.

The mood across the nation has changed faster than the Canadian winds that bring the fall weather. So what if he is the only Democrat to have won a second election since Roosevelt? He doesn't look much like a winner right now.

Besides, the argument has moved on. People are no longer debating the issue of whether a bad husband can be a good president. The questions round the water-cooler are far graver. Can he hang on? And if so, for how long?

The tragedy is, that they still genuinely like him. Unlike his predecessor, George Bush, who managed to appear both distant and drab in equal measure, Clinton is the neighbour bursting with bonhomie who helps you light the barbecue while you ignore the rumours that he's sleeping with the woman across the road.

But now the whole town has discovered that he's sleeping with the woman's daughter. Saturday night barbecues will never be the same.

JIM BOURG/REUTERS

The embattled President caught in a moment of rare levity during a speech in Connecticut in March on his proposals for reform measures for childcare services

THE COMET PRICE index
YOU CAN'T BUY BETTER
Right here every Saturday, you'll find the Comet Price Index – your handy guide to hundreds of top brand products at Britain's lowest prices, updated every week, and checked nationally to make sure you can't buy better.

LOWEST EVER PRICES
ON A WIDE RANGE OF PRODUCTS IN STORE
All of the products marked with this symbol ⬇ are now lower in price than they have ever been before. Many reduced recently for even better value.

SAVE UP TO £160 ON LAUNDRY – UP TO 72 IN STORE
WASHING MACHINES
Indesit WG824, 900 spin, 11lb wash load, was £319.99 . SAVE £100 £219.99
Servis M6110, 1100 spin, 10lb wash load, was £349.99 SAVE £100 £249.99
Hotpoint WM53P, 500/1000 spin, 11lb wash load, Half load option, normally £549.99 TRADE-IN SAVE £50 £299.99
ZANUSSI FLS1183W 1050 spin/10lb wash load, Economy wash, was £489.99 SAVE £160 £329.99
Hotpoint WM63P, 1100 spin, 12lb wash load/Aquarius Wash System Plus, normally £449.99 TRADE-IN SAVE £70 £379.99
HOOVER AS116 400-1100 variable spin/11lb wash load, Grade 'A' wash for unbeatable results, was £399.99 previously £499.99 SAVE £120 £379.99
Blomberg AW1500, 600-1500 variable spin/11lb wash load/Grade 'A' wash, was £549.99 . SAVE £150 £399.99
BOSCH WFF1401, 600/1200 spin, 11lb wash load/Grade 'A' wash for unbeatable results, was £549.99 . SAVE £120 £429.99
BOSCH WFF2001 400-1000 variable spin/11lb wash load, Grade 'A' wash for unbeatable results, was £619.99 . SAVE £120 £499.99
WASHER DRYERS
Servis M9090 800 spin/10lb wash load, 5lb dry load, was £399.99 SAVE £100 £299.99
Indesit WDG1295 1200 spin/11lb wash load, 5.5lb dry load, was £469.99 SAVE £120 £349.99
ZANUSSI WJS1397 Jetsystem RS 1350 spin/10lb wash load, 5lb dry load, was £689.99 ... SAVE £140 £549.99
TUMBLE DRYERS
Crusader 37660, 11lb dry load, 2 drying temperatures, was £199.99, In-store £139.99 SAVE £80 VOUCHER £119.99
Hotpoint TL61P 11lb dry load, 2 drying temperatures, normally £249.99 TRADE-IN SAVE £50 £199.99
ZANUSSI TC470 Condenser Dryer, Requires no venting/11lb dry load, was £409.99, In-store £289.99 SAVE £160 VOUCHER £249.99

SAVE UP TO £250 ON COOKING – UP TO 120 IN STORE
BUILT-IN COOKING
DeLonghi White Colonial Package: Electric Oven, EDC360/1 was £379.99; Electric Hob, EHC360/1 was £149.99; Cooker Hood, H600 was £79.99; SAVE £250 PACKAGE £359.96
FREE STANDING COOKERS
DeLonghi GS502 Brown Gas, 500mm width/Glass door, Metal lid, was £299.99, In-store £199.99 SAVE £120 VOUCHER £179.99
Country Cottage Green Gas 500mm width, High level grill, Brass effect finish, normally £399.99 TRADE-IN SAVE £120 £279.99
Tecnogas 601 White Gas, 600mm width/Glass lid/Combined oven and grill/Glass door, was £449.99 . SAVE £120 £329.99
Creda 49132 SC600 White Electric, 500mm width/Double oven, was £499.99, In-store £369.99 SAVE £150 VOUCHER £349.99
STOVES Panache 600SI Blue Gas, 600mm width/Separate grill, Glass lid/Glass door, was £599.99 .... SAVE £100 £499.99

Amica Format 633 Green Halogen 600mm width/Ceramic hob, Double oven, was £949.99, In-store £769.99 SAVE £200 VOUCHER £749.99
SAVE UP TO £150 ON DISHWASHERS – UP TO 20 IN STORE
COW086 Slimline, 8 place settings/4 programmes, normally £399.99, Trade-in £299.99 SAVE £150 VOUCHER £249.99
Blomberg 1200DW 12 place settings, 4 programmes, Adjustable upper basket, was £369.99, In-store £269.99 SAVE £120 VOUCHER £249.99
Hotpoint DF61P 12 place settings, 4 programmes, normally £449.99 TRADE-IN SAVE £100 £349.99
BOSCH SGS5302 12 place settings, 5 programmes, normally £469.99 TRADE-IN SAVE £70 £399.99
SAVE UP TO £130 ON REFRIGERATION – UP TO 100 IN STORE
FRIDGES
DAEWOO FR142 Fridge with Ice Box 4.9 cu ft gross capacity, normally £149.99, Trade-in £109.99 SAVE £50 VOUCHER £99.99
BEKO LN221 Larder Fridge 5.0 cu ft gross capacity, was £169.99, In-store £139.99 SAVE £40 VOUCHER £129.99
Servis M7041 Fridge with Ice Box 5.0 cu ft gross capacity, was £169.99 SAVE £30 £139.99
Hotpoint RL63P Larder Fridge 5.6 cu ft gross capacity, was £219.99 previously £299.99 SAVE £100 £199.99
Scandinova LF111D Larder Fridge 11.4 cu ft gross capacity, normally £399.99 TRADE-IN SAVE £70 £329.99
FREEZERS
BEKO ZA231 Upright 4.0 cu ft gross capacity, was £169.99, In-store £149.99 SAVE £60 VOUCHER £129.99
Hotpoint RZ83 Upright 4.2 cu ft gross capacity, was £229.99 previously £349.98, £329.99 .... SAVE £110 £219.99
proline FF630 Frost-Free 6.3 cu ft gross capacity, normally £299.99 TRADE-IN SAVE £30 £269.99
CHEST FREEZERS
proline CF38C 3.8 cu ft gross capacity, normally £139.99, Trade-in £109.99 SAVE £40 VOUCHER £99.99
Scandinova CF84C 8.2 cu ft gross capacity, was £289.99, In-store £209.99 SAVE £90 VOUCHER £199.99
FRIDGE FREEZERS
Whirlpool ART500-B/G/1 5.2/1.5 cu ft gross capacity, was £249.99 ... SAVE £70 £179.99
proline CCB234 4.5/3.1 cu ft gross capacity, normally £299.99 TRADE-IN SAVE £70 £229.99
Servis M7054 5.0/4.2 cu ft gross capacity, was £319.99, In-store £289.99 SAVE £70 VOUCHER £249.99
Blomberg GN1950 Frost-Free 4.2/2.6 cu ft gross capacity, was £289.99 previously £399.99 SAVE £120 £279.99
Hotpoint RF63P, 6.0/4.2 cu ft gross capacity, was £379.99 previously £399.99, £499.99 ... SAVE £150 £349.99
Kelvinator KCD13/11FF Frost-Free 4.6/3.6 cu ft gross capacity, normally £449.99, Trade-in £369.99 SAVE £100 VOUCHER £349.99
DAEWOO ERF310M Frost-Free 7.7/3.3 cu ft gross capacity, was £399.99 previously £449.99 SAVE £70 £379.99
Scandinova FF87450 Frost-Free 6.7/4.6 cu ft gross capacity, normally £599.99 TRADE-IN SAVE £110 £489.99
Hotpoint 8595P Frost-Free 7.2/4.8 cu ft gross capacity, was £729.99 . SAVE £130 £599.99

SAVE UP TO £90 ON VACUUM CLEANERS – UP TO 75 IN STORE
Moulinex AKC Cylinder 1250 watts power/On-board tools, was £79.99 previously £99.99, £129.99 SAVE £80 £49.99
HOOVER U2090 Upright 800 watts power, On-board tools, was £79.99 previously £159.99 SAVE £90 £69.99
Panasonic MC-E962 Cylinder 1300 watts variable power, On-board tools, was £99.99 previously £119.99 SAVE £30 £89.99
HITACHI CV975D Upright 1300 watts power/5 level filtration, was £99.99 previously £149.99 SAVE £60 £89.99
Panasonic MC-E458 Upright 1300 watts power, Star-cleaning hose . . . £99.99
VAX 5130 3-in-1 Vacuums, washes carpets and picks up spills/1300 watts power, was £149.99 . SAVE £10 £139.99
Electrolux 1720 Powersystem Upright, 1500 watts power, Cyclone system, was £169.99 previously £189.99, In-store £149.99 SAVE £50 VOUCHER £139.99
dyson DC01 Yellow or Blue Upright 1300 watts power, Dual Cyclone bagless technology, was £199.99 SAVE £20 £179.99
dyson DC03 Upright, Dual Cyclone technology, 2 HEPA filters, Adaptive brush control, Unique bagless system £279.99
SAVE UP TO £11 ON SMALL DOMESTIC APPLIANCES – UP TO 250 IN STORE
Rowenta KE274 Navy & White Cordless Filter Jug Kettle, Auto cut-out, Removable washable filter, Part of a co-ordinated range £14.99
Rowenta TP01 4 Navy & White Coolwall 2-Slice Toaster, Frozen bread setting, Coolwall body for safety £14.99
SWAN AR1MY Mellow Yellow Coffee Maker, 10 cup capacity, Anti-drip device, Detachable filter £29.99

Russell Hobbs 9206 2-Slice Toaster, Polished metal coolwall body, Variable thickness slot, was £31.99 previously £41.99 . SAVE £11 £30.99
TEFAL 1672.14 Ultraglide Diffusion Steam/Spray/Shot Iron, 'Ultraglide' diffusion soleplate, Removable anti-scale valve, was £44.99 . . . SAVE £5 £39.99
KENWOOD FP101 Food Processor 300 watts power/Pulse control, Compact size, was £49.99 .... SAVE £10 £39.99
DeLonghi FPECY Yellow Deep Fat Fryer Coolwall body, Double filters/Rotating basket, was £74.99 . . . SAVE £5 £69.99
SAVE UP TO £130 ON MICROWAVES – UP TO 50 IN STORE
proline SM11 Green 750 watts IEC 0.6 cu ft capacity/5 power levels, was £74.99 previously £79.99, £159.99 SAVE £90 £69.99
SHARP R250 Touch Control 800 watts IEC 0.6 cu ft capacity . . . £99.99
SHARP R-641A Touch Control with Grill, 800 watts IEC/0.6 cu ft capacity/1000 watts grill, was £149.99 . SAVE £20 £129.99
Panasonic NNE5-BW Touch Control, 800 watts IEC 0.6 cu ft capacity, was £159.99 . SAVE £20 £139.99
proline CT88 with Grill & Oven 950 watts IEC/1.0 cu ft capacity/1300 watts grill, was £179.99 previously £299.99 SAVE £130 £169.99
SANYO EMD953 Silver Touch Control with Grill & Convection Oven 800 watts IEC/1.0 cu ft capacity £249.99
SAVE UP TO £500 ON MULTIMEDIA PCs & PRINTERS – EVEN MORE IN STORE
FREE SOFTWARE BUNDLE WITH ALL MULTIMEDIA PCs
IBM Aptiva E25 AMD K6 2/266MHz processor with 3D NOW! Technology/32Mb SD RAM 4.0Gb hard disk drive/56k fax/modem AGP graphics card with 2Mb RAM/15" monitor NEW £799.99
IBM Aptiva E35 AMD K6 2/300 processor with 3D NOW! Technology/64Mb SD RAM 6.0Gb hard disk drive/56k fax/modem AGP graphics card with 2Mb RAM/15" monitor £999.99
DAEWOO 1400/6-P11400 Intel 400MHz Pentium II processor 64Mb SD RAM/8.4Gb hard disk drive 56k fax/modem AGP graphics card with 4Mb RAM, was £1399.99 previously £1799.99 . SAVE £500 £1299.99
COLOUR PRINTERS
Canon BJC 4300 Colour Bubblejet. Up to 4.5 pages per minute 720 x 360 dpi print quality, 100 page sheet feeder, was £129.99 . SAVE £5 £124.99
HEWLETT PACKARD Deskjet 720 Colour Inkjet Up to 8 pages per minute, 600 dpi print quality, 100 page sheet feeder £199.99
SAVE UP TO £31 ON CORDLESS PHONES – UP TO 80 PHONES IN STORE
Binatone Compact 4 Cordless Telephone Paging facility, was £39.99 previously £49.99, In-store £34.99 SAVE £20 VOUCHER £29.99
Southwestern Bell FF895 Cordless Telephone with Digital Answering Machine, Day & time stamp, 8 channel automatic selection, was £89.99 SAVE £5 £84.49
BT Diverse 2010 Digital Cordless Telephone, Up to 300 metre outdoor range/Paging facility, was £129.99 previously £149.99 . SAVE £21 £128.99
PHILIPS Xalio 6800 Digital Cordless Phone with Digital Answering Machine, Up to 300 metre outdoor range/Day & time stamp, was £199.99 SAVE £31 £168.99
SAVE UP TO £100 ON TELEVISIONS – UP TO 80 IN STORE
ALL COMET TVs ARE DIGITAL COMPATIBLE – SUBJECT TO PURCHASE OF A DECODER, AVAILABLE WHEN DIGITAL TV LAUNCHES
Goodmans/proline 14" TVs 34cm visible screen . . . FROM £99.99
Panasonic TX14S3T 14" Fastext TV 34cm visible screen, was £169.99 SAVE £10 £159.99

Goodmans 2085S 20" NICAM Stereo TV, 48cm visible screen, was £199.99 previously £219.99 SAVE £40 £179.99
Panasonic TXC1M4 21" NICAM Stereo TV 51cm visible screen, was £349.99 SAVE £20 £329.99
TV/VIDEO COMBIs
Goodmans TVC14VP 14" TV/Video Combi 34cm visible screen, was £269.99, In-store £249.99 SAVE £50 VOUCHER £219.99
SAMSUNG TVP2050ST 20" Fastext TV/Video Combi 48cm visible screen . NEW £349.99
BIG SCREEN TVs
Goodmans 28SDPL 28" Dolby Pro-Logic TV 66cm visible screen, was £499.99 SAVE £50 £449.99
SONY KV29X5 29" NICAM Stereo TV, 68cm visible screen, was £569.99 previously £599.99 SAVE £60 £539.99
Goodmans 336NS 33" NICAM Stereo TV 80cm visible screen, was £749.99 SAVE £150 £599.99
TOSHIBA 2997DB Silver 29" Dolby Pro-Logic TV, 68cm visible screen NEW £799.99
TOSHIBA 3797DB Silver, 37" Dolby Digital 5.1 TV, 88cm visible screen NEW £1999.99
WIDESCREEN TVs
PHILIPS 28PW6332C 28" Widescreen Dolby Pro-Logic TV, 66cm visible screen, was £799.99 . SAVE £70 £729.99
SONY KV28WS2 28" Widescreen Dolby Pro-Logic TV 66cm visible screen, was £849.99 SAVE £20 £829.99
SONY KV32WS2 32" Widescreen Dolby Pro-Logic TV 76cm visible screen, was £1299.99 In-store £1249.99 SAVE £100 VOUCHER £1199.99
TOSHIBA 32WT08 32" Widescreen Dolby Digital 5.1 TV 76cm visible screen NEW £1599.99
SAVE UP TO £50 ON VIDEOS – UP TO 45 IN STORE
Goodmans TV5000 2 Head Long Play, SCART socket, was £114.99 previously £119.99 . SAVE £20 £99.99
aiwa HVGX800 2 Head Videoplus+, Programme Delivery Control, was £149.99 . . SAVE £10 £139.99
Goodmans VN8000 4 Head NICAM Stereo, Videoplus+/Programme Delivery Control, was £179.99 previously £189.99 SAVE £20 £169.99
SHARP VCMH711 4 Head NICAM Stereo, Videoplus+/Programme Delivery Control/Jog shuttle, was £229.99 . SAVE £30 £199.99
Panasonic NVHD630B 4 Head NICAM Stereo, Videoplus+ Programme Delivery Control, was £299.99 previously £329.99, In-store £289.99 SAVE £50 VOUCHER £279.99
SONY SLVE-730 4 Head NICAM Stereo, Videoplus+ Programme Delivery Control NEW £299.99
JVC HR-S7500 S-VHS 4 Head NICAM Stereo, Videoplus+ Programme Delivery Control £349.99
SAVE UP TO £60 ON TV/VIDEO PACKAGES – UP TO 30 IN STORE
Goodmans 28" NICAM Stereo TV & Stand 66cm visible screen, 28SNS £319.99; NICAM Stereo Video, VN8000 £219.99; Package In-store £499; SAVE £60 VOUCHER PACKAGE £479
TOSHIBA 21" NICAM Stereo TV 51cm visible screen, 2173DB, £279.99; NICAM Stereo Video, V728 £279.99; SAVE £40 PACKAGE £519
SAVE UP TO £200 ON CAMCORDERS – UP TO 25 IN STORE
SAMSUNG VPA20 8mm Format 16x zoom/Macro facility, Autofocus, was £349.99, In-store £329.99 SAVE £50 VOUCHER £299.99

SONY TR411 8mm Format 20x digital zoom/Special effects, was £449.99 previously £499.99 SAVE £100 £399.99
SHARP VLE610H 8mm Viewcam 16x zoom/Fader, Built-in 3" LCD monitor, was £599.99 SAVE £150 £449.99
DIGITAL CAMCORDERS
JVC DV3 Digital Format 100x digital zoom, Image stabiliser, Still photo mode £999.99
JVC DVL9000 Digital Format 100x digital zoom/4" colour pop-out screen, was £1799.99 SAVE £200 £1599.99
SAVE UP TO £50 ON HI-FI & PORTABLES – UP TO 170 IN STORE
FREE DIGITAL HEADPHONES ON ALL AUDIO PRODUCTS OVER £100
PORTABLE HI-FI
VENTURER CD1993 CD Stereo Radio Cassette, AM/FM radio, Mains/battery operated, was £39.99 SAVE £1 £38.99
SONY CFDS37L CD Stereo Radio Cassette, FM/MW/LW digital radio/Remote control, was £119.99 . SAVE £10 £109.99
MICRO HI-FI
aiwa LCX150 CD Micro Hi-Fi FM/MW/LW digital radio/Programmable CD, was £119.99 previously £129.99, In-store £109.99 SAVE £30 VOUCHER £99.99
JVC UX-T100 CD Micro Hi-Fi FM/MW/LW digital radio/Full logic cassette deck, was £169.99 previously £179.99 SAVE £30 £149.99
Technics SCHD51 CD Micro Hi-Fi Separates, 30 watts total RMS power output/Full logic control, was £449.99 SAVE £50 £399.99
MINI HI-FI
VENTURER CDC230 3 Disc Multiplay CD Mini Hi-Fi, Remote control, was £99.99 previously £99.99 SAVE £20 £79.99
VENTURER CDC560 Dolby Pro-Logic 3 Disc Multiplay CD Mini Hi-Fi 5 speaker system, was £179.99, In-store £159.99 SAVE £30 VOUCHER £149.99
aiwa NSX-S303 3 Disc Multiplay CD Mini Hi-Fi, 37 watts RMS power output, was £179.99 previously £199.99 SAVE £30 £169.99
SONY MHC-RX77S CD Mini Hi-Fi 80 watts RMS power output/AM/FM digital radio, was £299.99 previously £319.99 SAVE £60 £259.99
PIONEER NS7-7 CD Mini Hi-Fi 110 watts total RMS power output, Wall mountable speakers, Wood finish, was £499.99 SAVE £50 £449.99
HI-FI WITH TURNTABLE
aiwa Z/R55 Dolby Pro-Logic Hi-Fi 87 watts total RMS power output, FM/MW/LW digital radio . . . NEW £299.99
GAMES CONSOLES & SOFTWARE – UP TO 70 GAMES IN STORE
PlayStation Dual Shock Pack includes console & Analogue Dual Shock controller . . NEW £99.99
SOFTWARE
TEKKEN 3 For PlayStation, The mother of all fighting games with 23 characters and over 1000 moves NEW £44.99
SAVE UP TO 50% ON ACCESSORIES – UP TO 500 IN STORE
JVC E240SX 3 Pack Video Tapes, 12 hours of recording time, Separate selling price £16 . . . SAVE 50% £7.99
SONY E180 5 Pack Video Tapes, 15 hours of recording time, Separate selling price £20 SAVE 50% £9.99
SONY EC45VFE 5 Pack VHS-C Camcorder Tapes, 5 x 45 minute tapes, Separate selling price £30 . . . SAVE 50% £14.99
SONY P590 SRB 5 Pack 8mm Camcorder Tapes, 7½ hours of recording time, Separate selling price £30 SAVE 50% £14.99

NEW FREE BUYING GUIDE
Comet recently asked the experts at What Video & TV magazine to independently test and review our 1998/99 product range. Their reviews on TVs, videos and camcorders have been published in a new Buying Guide available in store.

VOUCHER OFFERS
Use this page to save pounds where you see the special Voucher Offers marked with symbols such as this example: £199.99 offers end Friday 18th September

MONEY BACK WARRANTY
Our 5-Year Warranty is really special. Besides giving you peace of mind, if after 5 years you don't make a claim you can get your warranty money back in full. Ask in store for full details.

COMET
OPEN TODAY 9AM–6PM, MOST STORES OPEN SUNDAY 11AM–5PM AND OPEN WEEKDAYS 9AM–8PM
For local store details see Teletext Ch4 p425 or phone free on 0500 425 425 or visit our web site at: www.comet.co.uk

WE ACCEPT ANY COMPETITORS' VOUCHER OFFERS
In the unlikely event that you should find a voucher/economy of our competitors offering a lower price on the same product available in stock at both retailers, simply present the voucher in store and we will willingly match the price. Ask in store for full conditions.

WE PROMISE THE LOWEST PRICES
The Comet Price Promise guarantees that if you buy any product from us, then within 14 days find the same offer on sale locally at a lower price, we'll willingly refund the difference, PLUS 10% OF THAT DIFFERENCE. Ask in store for full details.

29.9% APR

6
THE TIMES SATURDAY SEPTEMBER
the sunflowers
fall '98
UNITED COLORS
OF BENETTON.
Lenor
care
THE TIMES SATU
The
Wes
Two arrests
over murder
of Briton
in Turkey
Mrs Cook ho
in love with

The trial by ordeal of Westminster organist

Dominic Kennedy on the bizarre staging of an appeal over the dismissal of abbey's outstanding musician

THE dean, the organist, his wife and their silks arrived in Downing Street yesterday for the climax of one of the most riveting disputes in the thousand years of Westminster Abbey.

Wesley Carr, the dean, is being forced to justify his dismissal of Martin Neary, who arranged the music for the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, over an obscure alleged financial irregularity.

Observers have compared the saga with the 19th-century novels of Anthony Trollope, who satirised churchmen and politicians in such works as *The Barchester Towers*. But even Gilbert and Sullivan would have blushed to construct a plot as farcical as that being unravelled behind the doors of the Privy Council's judicial chamber.

The origins of yesterday's secret hearing lie in Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries, including the Benedictine monastery at Westminster where all the kings of England had been crowned since 1066. Henry VIII made himself Visitor of the Abbey, in place of the Pope.

In 1560, Elizabeth I granted a charter laying down the abbey's constitution: dean, chapter and organist would be answerable only to her, as Visitor, rather than a bishop. The abbey, like a handful of churches, thus became a "Royal Peculiar".

Enter the modernising dean, appointed last year from Bristol Cathedral. He sacked the unpaid volunteers aged over 70, introduced a £5 entrance fee to the nave, installed security cameras and ordered crowd control measures.

Organising the Princess's funeral service was one of his first duties. The music was arranged in three days by Dr Neary, 58, who in his ten years at Westminster has become recognised as one of the world's great church musicians. He wrung emotion out of his choirboys by telling them, just before the service, to imagine what it would be like if their mothers had died.

The Queen rewarded Dr Neary by making him a lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order in the New Year Honours.

But in March Dr Neary and his wife Penny were summoned to the abbey's private Jerusalem Chamber where Dr Carr suspended them from their duties for alleged financial irregularities.

Four days later, on Maundy Thursday, one of the most poignant dates on the church calendar, a disciplinary hearing was called. The Nearys were warned they could be dismissed. At this point, they consulted Cherie Booth, QC, the Prime Minister's wife and an employment law specialist. She advised seeking an injunction to halt the hearing but the dean called it off instead.

The Nearys were dismissed on April 22, their 31st wedding anniversary. Their salaries were stopped. Parents of choirboys were told that the abbey's auditors had discovered the existence of Neary Music Ltd which had "retained money for abbey events that did not belong to it".

Neary Music Ltd was a successor of the Neary Music Account, which was set up with the approval of the previous canon treasurer Colin Semper to receive fees for the choir's non-abbey musical activities, such as recordings, broadcasts and tours. It was changed into a limited company to satisfy the Nearys' accountant in case the couple faced lawsuits if, for example, a promoter failed to pay for a cancelled event.

Far from being a secret, there was a sign on the Song School vestry asking for VAT invoices to be made out to Neary Music Ltd. The abbey cashed a cheque from the limited company for a four-figure sum. The surpluses left with the company are said by supporters to be small contingencies.

Because the abbey is a Royal Peculiar, the Nearys could not take their claim for unfair dismissal to the Church of England or an industrial tribunal. They had to petition the Queen.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, appointed Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, 73, to hear the case. Since there is no precedent, the rules have had to be made up by Lord Jauncey, with the agreement of both sides. They have decided to hold the hearing according to High Court rules.

The Nearys, who have an adult handicapped son, risk losing their large home in the shadow of Westminster Abbey. The wedding of the Nearys' daughter Nicola, which should have been held in the abbey, had to be moved to a parish church in Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Shortly after dawn yesterday, a group of the Nearys' supporters gathered outside the cloisters for a silent protest. They marched on the 13th-century St Faith's Chapel, where the Dean and his canons gather daily for matins. Yesterday, five parents of choirboys — a circuit judge, a doctor, a barrister, an audio producer and the music coordinator at St Paul's Cathedral — plus one of their sisters, a 10-year-old girl, outnumbered the members of the chapter present.

The Dean sat in the front row, his knees and arms folded. The tiny group recited Psalm 7 ("God is a righteous judge . . . See how the ungodly conceives mischief) and Job 33 ("I am innocent," you said, "and free from offence, blameless and without guilt. Yet God finds occasions to put me in the wrong and counts me his enemy; he puts my feet in the stocks and keeps a close watch on all my conduct.")

The atmosphere at the abbey has become unbearable for many. Dame Ruth Railton, the musician and a benefactor of the choir school, has stopped worshipping there. "What we want is to save the abbey. Getting rid of the organist involved changing a very great part of abbey life."

Lord Jauncey, who is expected to make his decision in mid-October, is keeping his own counsel. "My lips are sealed," he told *The Times*. "It is a domestic tribunal."

Martin Neary and his wife Penny arriving for the hearing yesterday into his sacking

Two arrests over murder of Briton in Turkey

By Stephen Farrell

THE Turkish mother-in-law of a British woman murdered on holiday in Anatolia four years ago has been arrested after a hitman claimed that she hired him to carry out the killing.

Sinda Ozcelebi, 32, from North London, disappeared on a day trip in August 1994 while travelling with her husband's mother, Nuran Yucesoy. She was later found dead beneath bushes on the road to Istanbul, with multiple stab wounds to her body.

Her family offered a £1,000 reward after accusing Turkish police of failing to carry out a proper investigation. Although Mrs Yucesoy was questioned, no one was arrested. Turgay Ozcelebi, who stayed in Istanbul on the day his wife disappeared, did not attend her funeral and later returned to Britain with the couple's daughter, now aged seven.

Yesterday, however, Turkish police revealed that a suspect, Murat Cigir, had confessed to the crime and had claimed that Mrs Yucesoy paid him £1,000. He described how he and an accomplice covered the victim's mouth, dragged her into bushes and stabbed her before tearing off her clothes to make it appear a sex killing.

Cigir alleges that Mrs Yucesoy, 58, watched the murder and then whispered to him: "God bless you."

Seized yacht is sold for £150

AN AMATEUR sailor has had his £156,000 yacht seized by Moroccan customs officials, who sold it for £150 to one of their own men.

Graham Hutt, 51, had been living on the yacht, bought with his life savings, while he appealed against a conviction for smuggling Bibles into the country. Officers barred him from returning to the *Safwana*, moored at the port of Smir.

Dr Hutt said yesterday that police told him a court had confiscated the 50ft yacht and it had been sold for £150 to one of the officers who had come to value it.

He had been arrested and held for 48 hours in an underground cell after Bibles printed in Arabic were found at a friend's flat in Morocco. In June, a court at Tetouan described Dr Hutt, a father of four from Gosport, Hampshire, as a subversive for taking a bag of Bibles into the country.

It imposed a £26,000 fine and a two-month suspended jail sentence on him and four companions. A confiscation order was placed on the boat but was not expected to be executed pending an appeal.

Dr Hutt said from his base at Sotogrande in southern Spain: "It makes me so angry to think that I don't know where the boat is or if I will ever see it again."

Wilfred Wong, of the Jubilee Campaign, based at the Houses of Parliament, said: "It's a clear breach of human rights and smacks of appalling corruption. Dr Hutt is still awaiting his appeal and should not have his property confiscated even if he had committed the offence."

A Foreign Office spokeswoman said: "We are aware of Dr Hutt's case and as it is still the subject of court proceedings, we would not intervene. It is matter for his lawyer to sort out if there has been any problem with the courts."

The Moroccan Embassy in London declined to comment.

Police records inquiry

A DETECTIVE working for the National Criminal Intelligence Service has been suspended during investigations into the sale of criminal records to a journalist (Stewart Tendler writes).

Yesterday the service confirmed that investigations had begun earlier this year and a detective constable on secondment had been sent back to Hertfordshire police where he was suspended from duty. The allegations involve the sale of information drawn from the Police National Computer, which holds four million criminal records and lists of police intelligence material as well as details of wanted persons.

NCIS provides intelligence on upper echelons of British criminals and acts as a link between police and the Security Service.

Mrs Cook hopes to be luckier in love with her new Robin

By Shirley English

PERHAPS it was curiosity that led Margaret Cook, the former wife of the Foreign Secretary, to choose a man called Robin with facial hair as a potential new partner.

Browsing through a clutch of personal profiles from Club Sirius, the £399-a-year national dating agency for professional singles, the coincidence must have struck her. Yesterday it emerged that after the break-up of her 28-year marriage to Robin Cook and their divorce in March, Mrs Cook, 53, has found a new *man*.

Robin Howie, a 60-year-old widower and retired company director living in Edinburgh, has been seeing Mrs Cook regularly since meeting her through Sirius.

Both, it is understood, joined the introduction agency recently and had dates with other members.

Apart from his name, moustache and two children, no other similarities between Mr Howie and Mr Cook are instantly apparent. Mr Howie is an athletic six-footer who enjoys mountaineering while Mr Cook is diminutive in stature and listed his hobbies in *Who's Who* as "eating, reading, talking".

Margaret Cook: joined an introduction agency

At his flat in Edinburgh's upmarket Braid's district, where a framed photograph of Mrs Cook adorns the coffee table, Mr Howie confirmed the couple had a relationship but fended off further questions saying: "I'm a gentleman and cannot comment."

Mr Howie, who is understood to have worked for Moray Firth Maltings in Arbroath, has been divorced once. He retired from his job to nurse his second wife, who died last year.

Mrs Cook, a consultant haemotologist, was unavailable to comment yesterday but was expected to return this weekend from a holiday in Africa.

It is understood that she found the coincidence with the names amusing and asked: "What shall I call you, Robin I or Robin II?" Mr Howie replied: "Robin I." According to friends Mr Cook is now referred to as "Robin zero".

Shortly after her husband left her for his secretary, Gaynor Regan, 41, Mrs Cook said she did not want to remarry as men in their fifties "collect problems, regress emotionally and need to be looked after".

Mrs Cook was dumped by her former husband in a VIP lounge at Heathrow Airport last August as they were about to fly to the US on holiday, because he had learnt that a newspaper was about to expose his affair.

Mr Cook married Gaynor Regan in April. He refused to comment on his former wife's new relationship.

HALF PRICE SALE

This Boston Oak kitchen was £6005 NOW ONLY £2942 INSTALLED Including free oven & hob

THIS WEEK EXTRA 10% OFF MANY PRICES

Plus this week every kitchen comes with a FREE OVEN & HOB

FREE

THIS DELUXE, MULTI-FUNCTION, SAFE-COOL FAN OVEN & GRILL AND GAS OR ELECTRIC HOB RRP £528 COME ABSOLUTELY FREE WITH EVERY MOBEN KITCHEN THIS WEEK. OUR CUSTOM FITTING SERVICE IS AVAILABLE ON THESE AND ALL OTHER APPLIANCES AT AN ADDITIONAL COST.

What makes Moben different?

Free professional advice at over 200 showrooms nationwide

Free in-home kitchen design service • Every kitchen fully installed at no extra charge • Joinery, electrics*, plumbing* and fitting of worktops included in every price

TAKE A LOOK AT MOBEN THIS WEEKEND

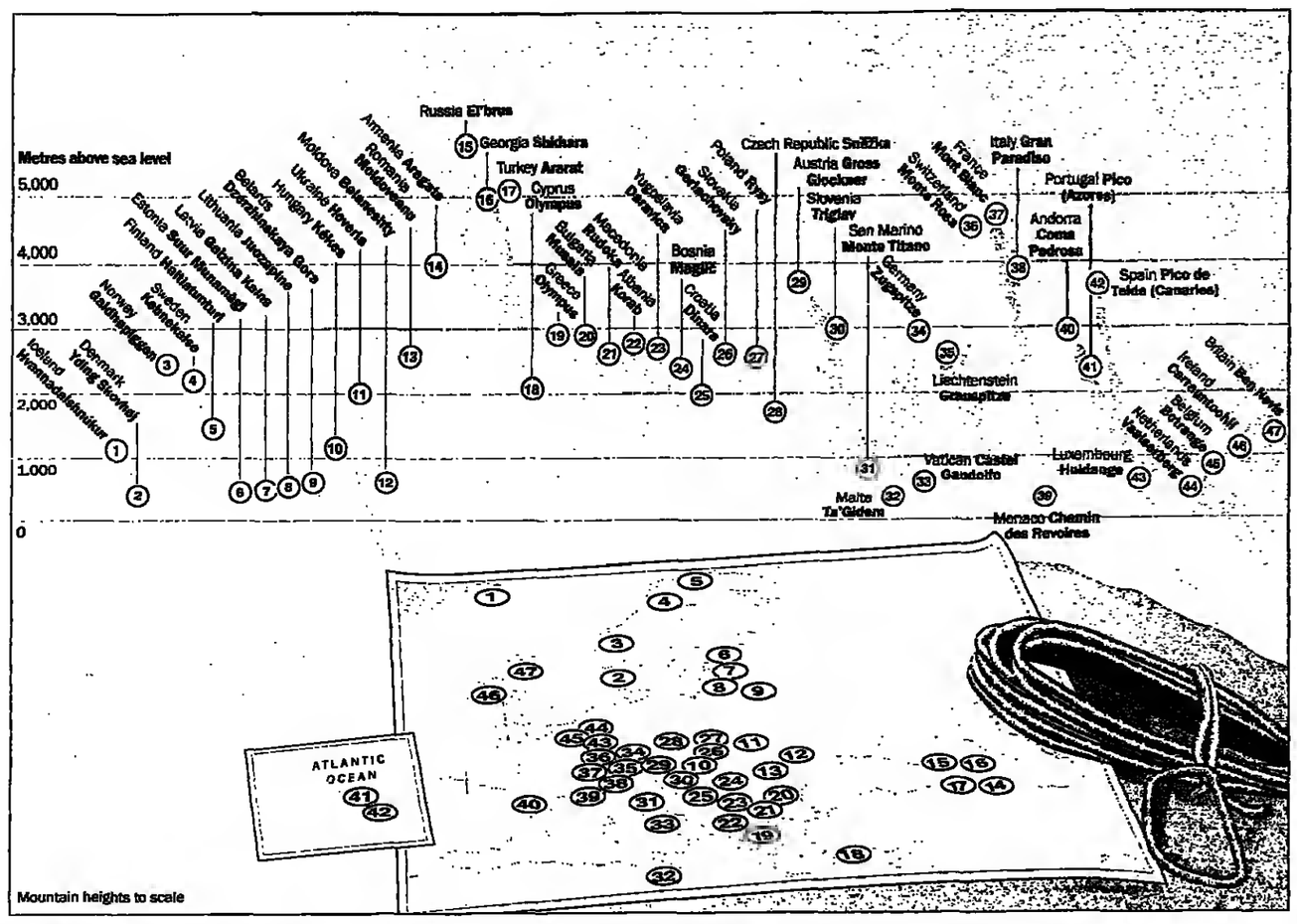
for hundreds of special in-store offers on kitchens and appliances

CALL YOUR LOCAL SHOWROOM DIRECT ON 0345 00 11 22

MOBEN FITTED KITCHENS

Beautiful kitchens made easy... and the price is right!

Kitchen and appliance offers only apply to UK mainland kitchen purchases over £2500 for delivery within 14 days. Only one of each type of appliance per order, i.e. 1 hob, 1 oven etc. Advertised appliances can be fitted as an extra. Offers refer to price list dated 25.5.98. Price examples exclude preps, ovens, hobs, sinks and taps and any other appliance. *Fitting excludes customers' own appliances and is to suitable on site supplies. No other offers apply



Britons chase peaks record

Is scaling the highest mountains in 47 countries folly, or a climbing epic? Stephen Farrell reports

In an eccentric challenge worthy of Phileas Fogg, two British mountaineers are criss-crossing Europe and Turkey in a race to climb the highest peaks in 47 states.

Eamon Fullen and Rod Baber, who have never met or spoken, both went into the *Guinness Book of Records* after dreaming up the same idea and were told it would be a world first.

The 25,000-mile feat of endurance and logistics will take them from the sublime — Mont Blanc, Mount Ararat and two Mount Olympuses — to the ridiculously easy, a gentle Dutch incline 1,053ft above sea level, and the Pope's summer residence at Castel Gandolfo, outside Rome. The highest mountain is Mt El'brus in Russia at 18,510ft and the lowest point in Monaco at 531ft. The race is likely to be won by Fullen, 30, a Royal Navy diver and holder of the Queen's Gallantry Medal for rescuing three lorry drivers trapped inside an air-pocket in the Zeebrugge ferry disaster in 1987.

Slowly but surely, he has logged 45 of the 47 peaks during time off from naval duties since 1992. Even a heart attack in 1996 while 23,000ft up Mount Everest has failed to deter him, and next week he will set off in his Land Rover to bag the final two peaks — Shkhara in Georgia and Ararat in Turkey.

Coming up hard on the rails, however, is Baber, 27, a Telecom salesman from Fulham, west London, who had the same idea during a drunken night out with friends and has completed 32 ascents in four months.

Dismayed to find a rival already halfway through the challenge, he gained sponsorship from Sure deodorants, persuaded equipment manufacturers to provide ice-axes, tents and global satellite navigation equipment, and set off in May aiming to overtake Fullen, or at least set a speed record by completing it within 180 days.

Surprisingly, there is no trace of rancour between the two. Preparing this week, Fullen said: "I'm looking forward to Georgia. It's very tough, probably the hardest climb of the 47, and the most technically difficult, but I hope to get it done and then on to Ararat. Best wishes to Rod and his team, and I will be happy to give him and his team any help, once the challenge is in the bag."

Meanwhile, Baber, speaking from the foot of Monte Rosa in Switzerland, admits his original 180-day deadline will be missed because of an avalanche in Georgia, implacable Turkish border guards who denied him access to Ararat, and the civil war in Kosovo, which prevented the ascent of Yugoslavia's highest peak, Daravica.

Nevertheless, he hopes to complete the task within a year and cheerfully admits his family thinks he is "barking mad". So far he and his driver, Giles Pittman, have had to cope with falling into crevasses in Iceland, frozen satellite navigation equipment, racing motorised snowcats across cracking ice lakes in Finland, and a fire in their trailer wheels in Ukraine. He said yesterday: "Things are going very well. I'm exceptionally optimistic, but the two things you can't control are the weather and politics. You can't take on armed border patrols with a penknife.

"I was annoyed when I found out Eamon was already halfway through. It would have been nice to be first and there is still that possibility, but even if he does get there I can set a new time. May the best man win."

Fullen ticks Daravica, in Yugoslavia, off his list of mountains

The attempts are being monitored by Guinness Publishing's Keeper of the Records, Clive Carpenter, who spent days poring through atlases and encyclopaedias to draw up the complete list of peaks and rules.

The challengers are allowed to drive to a peak if it is crossed by roads normally open to traffic, but not to cut across country in vehicles. They may use cable-cars, ski-lifts and funicular railways, but not aircraft. Ascents must be recorded in a log book authenticated by at least one independent witness. They must take two photographs facing north, south, east and west on each summit with a camera which records dates and times.

Ultra Deep
ULTRA
SILK CUT
ULTRA
Ultra Low
SMOKING CAUSES CANCER
Chief Medical Officers' Warning
1mg Tar 0.1mg Nicotine

There are some excellent pension companies around.
We're just one of them
personal pension
Virgin direct
Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. The price of units and any income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount you invest. The basis of tax may change and the tax benefit depends on personal circumstances. For your security all calls are recorded and randomly monitored.

هكذا من الأصل

HILFIGER
ATHLETICS

the new fragrance by tommy hilfiger

Introducing Hilfiger Athletics

The new fragrance by American designer Tommy Hilfiger.
Charged with energy and fun. Designed to cool, refresh and exhilarate.

HILFIGER

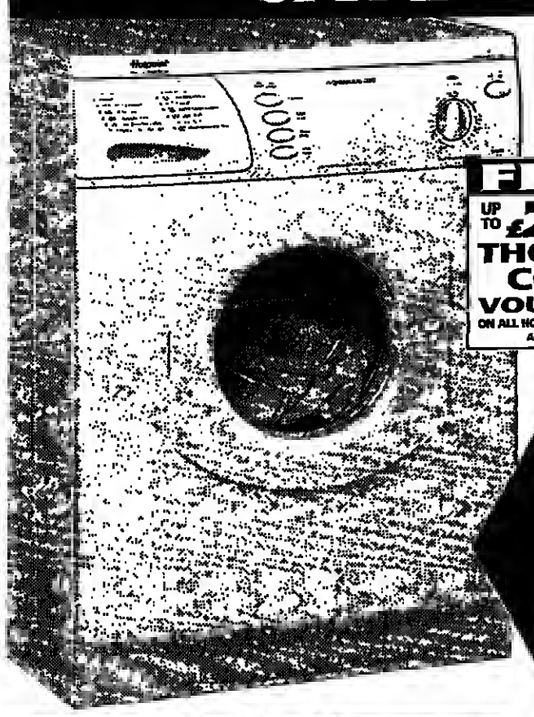
The Hilfiger Athletics "fitness t-shirt" is yours with any
100ml Tommy Hilfiger men's fragrance purchase.*
Available from Saturday 12 September 1998.

*While stocks last.

Currrys

OVER 1000 PRICES REDUCED THROUGHOUT THE STORE

WASHING MACHINES SAVE UP TO £80



FREE UP TO £200 THOMAS COOK VOUCHERS ON ALL HOTPOINT APPLIANCES Ask for details

SAVE £50
HOTPOINT
1100 Spin 'Aquarius' Washing Machine
Available in Polar White, Linen, Mercury, Lilac, Pistachio Green or Ice Blue. Model WM53. Was £429.99. Was £389.99.
10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
FREE £100 OF THOMAS COOK VOUCHERS Ask for details
CURRYS PRICE £379.99

LOWEST PRICE EVER
CANDY 1000 Spin Washing Machine Model ECO1001. Was £299.99 Was £269.99 SAVE £70 CURRYS PRICE £229.99
LOWEST PRICE EVER
CANDY 1200 Spin Washing Machine Model ECO1201. Was £299.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £40 CURRYS PRICE £259.99
HOOVER 1000 Spin 'Performa Eco' Washing Machine Model AB100. Price Excluding Trade-In £309.99 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £30 TRADE-IN PRICE £279.99
HOTPOINT 1000 Spin 'First Edition' Washing Machine Model WM52. Was £325.99 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £30 CURRYS PRICE £299.99
£100 OF THOMAS COOK VOUCHERS Ask for details
ZANUSSI 1050 Spin 'Aquacycle' Washing Machine Quick 'n' clean action. Model FLS1185OW. Was £429.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £70 CURRYS PRICE £359.99

LOWEST PRICE EVER
HOOVER 1300 Spin 'Quanta' Washing Machine Model A5110. Was £439.99 Was £399.99 SAVE £60 FREE £20 SHELL COUPONS* CURRYS PRICE £379.99
LOWEST PRICE EVER
BOSCH 1000 Spin Washing Machine Model WFF1201. Was £439.99 10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £40 CURRYS PRICE £399.99
ZANUSSI 1250 Spin 'Jetsystem Excel RSI' Washing Machine Model FJS1397W. Was £539.99. 9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £80 CURRYS PRICE £459.99
LOWEST PRICE EVER
BOSCH 1000 Spin Washing Machine Model WFF2001. Was £549.99. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £50 CURRYS PRICE £499.99
LOWEST PRICE EVER
HOTPOINT 1400 Spin Washing Machine Model WM73 Was £549.99 Was £549.99 SAVE £100 FREE £100 OF THOMAS COOK VOUCHERS CURRYS PRICE £499.99
12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* *Ask for details

LOWEST PRICE EVER

INDESIT 1100 Spin Washing Machine
- 15 programmes
- Variable thermostat.
- Auto water level control.
- Slow spin option.

Model WG1130T. Was £299.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
SAVE £60 CURRYS PRICE £239.99

FRIDGE FREEZERS SAVE UP TO £90

FREE UP TO £200 THOMAS COOK VOUCHERS ON ALL HOTPOINT APPLIANCES Ask for details

LOWEST PRICE EVER
HOTPOINT
10.2 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer
- 6.0 cu.ft. fridge.
- Economy switch.
- Also available in Linen or Mercury.

Model RF63 POLAR WHITE. Was £439.99. Was £399.99. Was £379.99.
6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
£100 OF THOMAS COOK VOUCHERS Ask for details
CURRYS PRICE £349.99

SAVE £90

WHIRLPOOL 6.7 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer Model ART500-9. Was £189.99. SAVE £10 CURRYS PRICE £179.99
LOWEST PRICE EVER
NOVA SCOTIA 6.8 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer Model N5A187. In-store Price £239.99. SAVE £40 VOUCHER PRICE £199.99
CANDY 8.6 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer Adjustable thermostat. Model CM25/12S. Was £279.99. Was £249.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £50 CURRYS PRICE £229.99
LEC 6.7 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer
- 4.0 cu.ft. fridge.
- Fast freeze facility.

Model N176. Was £239.99. Was £249.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £40 CURRYS PRICE £239.99
CANDY 9.7 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer 6.7 cu.ft. fridge. Model CM28/10S. Was £279.99. In-store Price £259.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £30 VOUCHER PRICE £249.99
LEC 8.3 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer Fast freeze facility. Model N216. Was £299.99. Was £269.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £50 CURRYS PRICE £249.99
BEKO 9.5 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer
- 5.1 cu.ft. fridge.
- Auto defrost in fridge.

Model CN260. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* CURRYS PRICE £259.99
ELECTROLUX 10.2 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer Model ER7946B. Was £399.99. Was £369.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £70 CURRYS PRICE £329.99
BOSCH 9.5 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer Auto defrost in fridge. Model KGV2604. Was £399.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £30 CURRYS PRICE £369.99
ZANUSSI 9.7 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer Model ZRK5648. Was £429.99. Was £399.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £70 CURRYS PRICE £369.99

FRIDGES SAVE UP TO £60

HOTPOINT 5.6 cu.ft. Larder Fridge
- Automatic defrost.
- Interior light.
- 3 shelves.
- Shaped salad crisper.
- Softline styling.
- Also available in Linen, Green or Mercury.

Model RL63 POLAR WHITE. Was £259.99. Was £239.99. Was £219.99.
£100 OF THOMAS COOK VOUCHERS Ask for details
SAVE £60
FREE UP TO £200 THOMAS COOK VOUCHERS ON ALL HOTPOINT APPLIANCES Ask for details
CURRYS PRICE £199.99

LG 4.4 cu.ft. Fridge
- Built-in ice box.
- Salad crisper.

Model GR-151SS. SUPERB VALUE CURRYS PRICE £99.99
FRIGIDAIRE 5.4 cu.ft. Fridge
- Push button defrost.
- 2 salad compartments.

Model R1526H. SUPERB VALUE CURRYS PRICE £129.99
CANDY 5.3 cu.ft. Larder Fridge Adjustable door shelving. Model CTL 150S. Was £169.99. SAVE £20 CURRYS PRICE £149.99
HOTPOINT 5.6 cu.ft. Fridge Shaped salad crisper. Model RS63N. Was £219.99. Was £189.99. £100 OF THOMAS COOK VOUCHERS Ask for details SAVE £40 CURRYS PRICE £179.99
FRIGIDAIRE 10.0 cu.ft. Larder Fridge
- Softline door design.
- Door fittings with bottle grips.

Model RLE1096H. Was £259.99. Was £239.99. SAVE £60 CURRYS PRICE £199.99
HOTPOINT 9.3 cu.ft. Larder Fridge Model RL83F. Was £369.99. Was £329.99 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* £100 OF THOMAS COOK VOUCHERS Ask for details SAVE £60 CURRYS PRICE £299.99
LEC 10.3 cu.ft. Larder Fridge Model L061. Was £379.99 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £30 CURRYS PRICE £349.99

FROST-FREE FRIDGE FREEZERS SAVE UP TO £70

HOOVER 9.3 cu.ft. Frost-Free Fridge Freezer
- Bowed door.
- Glass shelves.
- 3 adjustable shelves.
- Fast-freeze facility.

Model RCM27F. Was £459.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
SAVE £80
CURRYS PRICE £379.99

CANDY 9.3 cu.ft. Frost-Free Fridge Freezer
- 5.7 cu.ft. fridge.
- Fast freeze facility.

Model CF2715. Was £399.99. Was £369.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £70 CURRYS PRICE £329.99
CANDY 10.0 cu.ft. Frost-Free Fridge Freezer Model CFF2913. Was £439.99. In-store Price £399.99 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £60 VOUCHER PRICE £379.99
HOTPOINT 9.5 cu.ft. Frost-Free Fridge Freezer. Model FF63N. Was £549.99. Was £499.99. SAVE £70 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* £100 OF THOMAS COOK VOUCHERS CURRYS PRICE £479.99 *Ask for details
BOSCH 11.1 cu.ft. Frost-Free Fridge Freezer Model KGU3102. Was £639.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £50 CURRYS PRICE £589.99
HOTPOINT 12.0 cu.ft. Mistral Plus Frost-Free Fridge Freezer Model 8596 TASMIN GREEN. Was £649.99. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* £100 OF THOMAS COOK VOUCHERS Ask for details SAVE £50 CURRYS PRICE £599.99
LG 16.8 cu.ft. American Style Frost-Free Fridge Freezer.
- Interior lights in fridge and freezer.
- Automatic defrost in fridge.

Model GR5727VF. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* CURRYS PRICE £649.99

WASHER DRYERS SAVE UP TO £90

HOOVER 1100 Spin 'Performa' Washer Dryer
- 14 programmes.
- Economy wash option.
- Reverse tumble action.
- Electronic spin control.

Model WA110. Was £429.99. Was £399.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
LOWEST PRICE EVER
SAVE £60 CURRYS PRICE £379.99
ZANUSSI 1050 Spin 'Aquacycle' Washer Dryer Aquacycle wash system. Model WDS1183W. Was £519.99. 9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £70 CURRYS PRICE £449.99
ARISTON 1000 Spin Washer Dryer
- 18 programmes.
- Half load option.

Model AB1030C. Was £359.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £30 CURRYS PRICE £329.99
BOSCH 1000 Spin Washer Dryer
- 12 programmes.
- Economy wash button.

Model WVF2000 Was £649.99. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £50 CURRYS PRICE £599.99
CANDY 1200 Spin Washer Dryer 15 programmes. Model ALISE 1200 Was £439.99. Was £399.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £90 CURRYS PRICE £349.99
HOTPOINT 1200 Spin 'Aquarius' Washer Dryer Model WD71. Was £649.99. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* FREE £100 OF THOMAS COOK VOUCHERS Ask for details SAVE £50 CURRYS PRICE £599.99

TUMBLE DRYERS SAVE UP TO £40

WHITE KNIGHT 10lb Reverse Action Condenser Dryer
- 2 heat settings.
- 120 minute timer.
- Final cool down phase.

Model 737C. Was £269.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST
LOWEST PRICE EVER
SAVE £40 CURRYS PRICE £229.99
HOOVER 11lb Tumble Dryer
- Creaseguard action.
- 2 heat settings.

Model SV23. Was £219.99. SAVE £40 CURRYS PRICE £179.99
LOWEST PRICE EVER
WHITE KNIGHT 11lb Tumble Dryer Model 412. Was £139.99. In-store Price £129.99. SAVE £20 VOUCHER PRICE £119.99
WHITE KNIGHT 11lb Reverse Action Tumble Dryer Final cool down tumble. Model 432. In-store Price £139.99. SAVE £10 VOUCHER PRICE £129.99
BOSCH 11lb Reverse Action Tumble Dryer
- 2 heat settings.
- 140 minute timer.

Model WTA2000 Was £219.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £20 CURRYS PRICE £199.99
CREDA 13lb Reverse Action Condenser Dryer
- 2 heat settings.
- 120 minute timer.

Model 37754. Was £299.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £30 CURRYS PRICE £269.99

DISHWASHERS SAVE UP TO A TOTAL OF £80

EXCLUSIVE FREE 3-PIECE PAN SET WITH ALL BOSCH DISHWASHERS Ask for details

BOSCH Full Size Dishwasher
- Takes 12 place settings.
- 4 wash programmes.
- 2 cleaning temperatures.
- Foldable plate rack in bottom.
- Very quiet operation.

Model SGS4012. Was £359.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
SAVE £30 CURRYS PRICE £329.99
CANDY Full Size Dishwasher Takes 12 place settings. Model CDW254 Was £279.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* LARGER STORES ONLY SAVE £30 CURRYS PRICE £249.99
TRICITY BENDIX Slimline Dishwasher 8 place settings Model DH086. Was £269.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £20 CURRYS PRICE £249.99
ZANUSSI Full Size Dishwasher Takes 12 place settings. Model DWS08 Was £329.99. In-store Price £299.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £80 VOUCHER PRICE £249.99
BOSCH Slimline Dishwasher Model SPS2462. Was £359.99 Was £329.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* EXCLUSIVE FREE 3-PIECE PAN SET Ask for details SAVE £60 CURRYS PRICE £299.99
HOTPOINT Full Size 'First Edition' Dishwasher Model DFS2. Was £325.99 10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* £100 OF THOMAS COOK VOUCHERS Ask for details SAVE £30 CURRYS PRICE £299.99
HOTPOINT Full Size 'Aquarius' Dishwasher Model DF61 Was £379.99. 10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* £100 OF THOMAS COOK VOUCHERS Ask for details SAVE £30 CURRYS PRICE £349.99
BOSCH Full Size Dishwasher Model SGS5002. Was £409.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* EXCLUSIVE FREE 3-PIECE PAN SET Ask for details SAVE £40 CURRYS PRICE £369.99
ZANUSSI Full Size Dishwasher Takes 12 place settings Model DWS949W. Was £459.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £50 CURRYS PRICE £399.99

FREEZERS SAVE UP TO £50

HOTPOINT 4.2 cu.ft. Upright Freezer
- Fast-freeze section.
- External indicator light.
- Also available in Mercury, Linen or Green.
- 2 removable baskets.

Model RZ63 POLAR WHITE. Was £269.99 Was £249.99. Was £229.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
£100 OF THOMAS COOK VOUCHERS Ask for details
SAVE £50
FREE UP TO £200 THOMAS COOK VOUCHERS ON ALL HOTPOINT APPLIANCES Ask for details
CURRYS PRICE £219.99

NOVA SCOTIA 3.8 cu.ft. Chest Freezer
- Compact size.
- Adjustable thermostat.

Model CF380. SUPERB VALUE CURRYS PRICE £99.99
LG 4.1 cu.ft. Upright Freezer
- 4 freezer compartments.
- Reversible door.

Model GF-161SSF Was £149.99. Was £139.99. SAVE £20 CURRYS PRICE £129.99
LEC 3.7 cu.ft. Upright Freezer
- Temperature warning light
- 3 freezer compartments.

Model U105 Was £189.99. Was £169.99. SAVE £30 CURRYS PRICE £159.99
FRIGIDAIRE 7.5 cu.ft. Chest Freezer Model FC7507. Was £219.99. In-store Price £199.99. SAVE £30 VOUCHER PRICE £189.99
FRIGIDAIRE 10.3 cu.ft. Chest Freezer Interior light. Model FC1037. Was £269.99. Was £239.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £30 CURRYS PRICE £229.99
FRIGIDAIRE 8.3 cu.ft. Upright Freezer Model FVE2196 Was £299.99. Was £259.99. In-store Price £249.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £50 VOUCHER PRICE £229.99
HOTPOINT 7.3 cu.ft. Upright Freezer Fast freeze. Model RZ83P. Was £369.99. Was £339.99 SAVE £70 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* *Ask for details. £100 OF THOMAS COOK VOUCHERS CURRYS PRICE £299.99
LEC 8.1 cu.ft. Upright Freezer
- Fast freeze facility.
- 4 star freezer rating.

Model U950W/S. Was £349.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £30 CURRYS PRICE £319.99

THE CHOICE FOR YOU

RANGE With Britain's biggest electrical choice, you'll find the model that meets your exact needs at Currys. Including many exceptional value exclusive models and offers.

DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION 7 DAYS A WEEK On a wide range of products when you purchase before 4pm. 48 hour delivery in parts of Northern Ireland and more remote parts of Scotland. You can even choose morning or afternoon delivery, or take it home now. Ask in-store for details

PEACE OF MIND Mastercare Coverplan Service Agreement provides up to 5 years' back-up by expert engineers.

IN HOME SAME DAY SERVICING If you phone before 10am Mon-Fri and live within 10 miles of a Currys store

AWARD WINNING IN-STORE REPAIR SHOPS Open 7 days a week.

INSTANT CREDIT With Currys Premier Advantage Card to make the choosing even easier. Ask for details.

CHOOSE TO ORDER DIRECT For direct, doorstep delivery in 5 working days Freephone 0500 304 304 or fax 01442 888145 (8am-5.30pm Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm Sun) Delivery charges from £3.25. Part of DSG Retail Ltd.

LOWEST PRICES ON THE SPOT

Find a lower price for the same product and offer, complete, new, boxed and in stock in a local shop within 7 days of purchase and we'll match it.
WE'LL NEVER BE BEATEN

ALL SUPERSTORES OFFER EASY PARKING, LATE NIGHT SHOPPING AND SUNDAY OPENING.

◆EXAMPLE OF INTEREST FREE OPTION ON SELECTED PRODUCTS

HOW IT WORKS Account is interest free if repaid in full before (or with) 6th, 9th, 10th or 12th monthly repayment according to the period stated with the product. See our 'How it Works' showcard in-store for details. Example based on Cash Price of £499.99. EITHER 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION 20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £33.33. Balance of £333.34 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment. Total amount payable £499.99. INTEREST 0% OR SPREAD THE COST WITH 48 MONTHLY REPAYMENTS 20% deposit of £99.99. 48 monthly repayments of £13.53. Total amount payable £749.43. APR 29.5% For loan values £1000 and over, minimum deposit is 10%. Subject to status when you open a Currys Premier Advantage Account. Written credit quotations available on request from: Dept IF0/MK, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7TG. (Applicants must be over 18 or over, 21 in Northern Ireland.)

WATCH OUT FOR OUR VOUCHER SPECIALS! Look out for the special voucher passes on selected products throughout this advertisement. Simply take this advert to any Currys store to claim your discount. One voucher saving per purchase. Some voucher offers are an alternative to existing trade-in offers. Not for use with other offers. Branch use only. Discount using Code 4 (Head Office offer). HURRY! These voucher prices valid only until Wednesday, 16th September 1998 unless otherwise stated.

هكذا من الأصل

Pupils go native to learn French without tears

Prep schools say term in a château is the best way to pick up a foreign language, writes Paul Wilkinson

PUPILS at two English prep schools are learning French by spending an entire term at an early 19th-century château in the shadow of the Pyrenees. They eat, speak and live as French children, immersing themselves in the culture of the country.

Château de Sauveterre, once the home of a Romantic poet who reputedly fought for Napoleon against Wellington, is owned by Cothill House school in Oxford, which shares its facilities with Mowden Hall School near Corbridge, Northumberland. The 11-year-olds are taught all their lessons in French, except English and mathematics, learning the country's geography, history, music and religion.

Mike Spencer, of Mowden Hall, believes it is the best way to teach children a foreign language. He said: "At first they speak very little French, so they find the lessons difficult, but they are taught a range of subjects, along the lines of the French curriculum. We help them to learn by using a lot of pictures, charts, diagrams and pointing to make them understand. By the end of the term they are expected to be, and usually are, fully confident in understanding French and can speak it quite well."

The children spend 12 weeks in France, returning to England only for half-term. All costs of the scheme except airfares are met by the schools. Cothill's annual fees are £10,600 for boarders; Mowden Hall's are £9,045.

The 25-room château is 45 miles southwest of Toulouse, near two villages, Samatan and Combez, where the students attend festivals and fairs to experience French life. Mr Spencer said: "We do exchanges with the French schools: our children go to their school and they come to us for a while and the children soon make good friends.

"We invite local youngsters to come around and play football or tennis or basketball, all in French, of course. Some French children come over on the weekends as well and we send our children out with French families."

Fred Wyrley-Birch, 11, from Gateshead, who has just started at the château, said: "I think I will enjoy it, but at the moment it is quite hard to understand the French."

Tom Flecchia, 11, from Wiltshire, said: "It is really good here because we get to learn French, but it is more relaxing than normal school."

Châteaux became the ultimate independent school accessory in the early 1990s, when the first preparatory schools opened continental outposts. Riverston School, in South London, paid more than £500,000 for a base in Normandy not long after Cothill's excursion into the French property market. However, the rise in French house prices and a squeeze on private school costs prevented others from following suit.

Château de Sauveterre was built in 1820 for Jules de Resseguier, who had planned a U-shape based on the Palace of Versailles. Construction began in 1820 but was never completed as the poet was called away to war and ran out of money. It stands as two long parallel buildings; the base of the U was never built.

Much of the furniture and some of the wallpaper date from that period, although it was renovated to make it suitable for teaching when Cothill bought it two years ago. Lessons are held in the former stables.

Cothill House paid £400,000 for the château and has spent more converting it. Adrian Richardson, the headmaster, said: "Resseguier was a French aristocrat and his wife furnished it herself. When we bought it, much of it had not been touched and we did our best to keep the atmosphere as it was.

"We have 50 pupils over there at the moment, the maximum amount we can take. The influence at the place is hugely French and they can't help but pick it up."

The Department for Education and Employment said: "We think it is a very good idea. We are keen to see more children involved with languages and this seems like a good and challenging way of doing it."

Château de Sauveterre: room for about 70 pupils

RICHARD POHLE

Andrew Ross, left, and Andrew Knight rehearsing in Hyde Park for the BBC's free Prom in the Park tonight, featuring the singer Montserrat Caballé

Thousands to benefit from GCSE recount

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

MORE than 6,000 teenagers will be given improved GCSE grades next week, after an examination board admitted errors in the calculation of marks for three subjects taken this summer.

The Northern Examinations and Assessment Board checked the results of 130,000 candidates after it found that a new computer program had produced faulty scores for some modular tests in science and humanities. The week-long review showed that about 5 per cent of candidates had been given the wrong grades.

Revised results were posted to schools yesterday. Peter Dawson, the board's assistant chief executive, said he hoped that the its prompt action would ensure that pupils' A-level choices and employment prospects would not be restricted.

The re-mark is thought to be the biggest undertaken by a GCSE board. Most of the changes are improvements by one grade, but Mr Dawson said a small number of results had been raised by more than one because other mistakes had been detected.

More than two million candidates took the Manchester-based board's GCSE papers this summer, but only the modular courses were affected. About 108,000 took the double science course, 12,000 took the single science equivalent and 10,000 humanities.

The mistakes came to light during the appeals that follwed last month's results. When assessment officers checked the marking they discovered inconsistencies in the scores awarded for modular tests taken part-way through the two-year courses.

The faulty programme was designed to convert marks from the tests into weighted scores used to calculate final grades. Mr Dawson said all grades were affected and some candidates whose entries had been unclassified would now be awarded a pass grade.

Among the schools waiting to hear yesterday whether their candidates would benefit was the Ridings School in Halifax, where 26 pupils had their marks recounted. Anna White, the head teacher, said the errors had been traumatic for those concerned. She added: "We couldn't understand how pupils we had put in for the higher level were coming back with unclassified results. We knew there was something wrong."

If it wasn't for the BBC, the Last Night of the Proms would have been on the 16th of October, 1926.

In 1927 the BBC came to the aid of a popular but financially unstable, classical music festival called the Henry Wood Promenade Concerts. Since then the Proms have flourished to become the most famous music festival in the world. Many of the pieces played have been specially commissioned works. Edward Elgar's 3rd Symphony, for example, was commissioned by the BBC in 1932 but remained unfinished at his death in 1934. It was completed posthumously by Anthony Payne and was performed along with Elgar's other two symphonies, as part of this year's festival and broadcast live on Radio 3 and BBC Television. The BBC's commitment to new music continues today and, in addition to the 3rd Symphony, this Proms season also includes five new BBC commissions. If it wasn't for the BBC and the unique way you fund it, these works may never have been performed. Come to think of it, they may never have been written. Tune in to this year's 'Last Night Of The Proms' tonight, live from The Albert Hall on BBC Television, BBC Radio 3 and from 'Proms in The Park' on BBC Radio 2.

www.bbc.co.uk

The cat's whiskers: Sprite
profit from our principles

IRA men celebrate freedom from Maze

Daniel McGrory on the first terrorists to go home under the peace deal

THE first terrorist prisoners to be released under the Northern Ireland peace agreement walked free yesterday.

Only three IRA men were among the seven, prompting Sinn Fein leaders to accuse ministers of stalling the process under which 200 prisoners are due to go home before Christmas. No notorious figures were included in yesterday's release as officials sought to deflect criticism.

Three loyalist terrorists were the first to leave through the turnstiles of the Maze prison, shielded by relatives and friends. Matthew McCormick, Daniel Annesley and Gary Hall hid their faces and refused to answer questions before being driven away at high speed.

One leading loyalist said: "They don't want to appear triumphalist — they just want to get home to their families".

Half an hour later they were followed by three IRA men, Sean McGuigan, Louis McNally and Gerard Magee, who were mobbed by members of the republican pressure group Saoirse. The men shook hands with Gerry Kelly, the Old Bailey bomber who escaped from the Maze in 1983 and is now a Sinn Fein Assembly member, and embraced Brendan McFarland, another IRA escaper.

Mr Kelly complained that more than 100 republicans and about the same number of loyalists were eligible for immediate release. "I am very pleased for the prisoners who got out but it should be more and if we act in this way — that only three prisoners or six prisoners are being released after a period of five months — if you try to keep that pace up you will be doing great damage to the peace process."

Mobbed: Pat McGuigan and Gerald Magee

The republicans were later criticised for being "triumphalist". Glyn Roberts, of Families Against Intimidation and Terror, said: "Does Saoirse have any idea of how distressing many victims and their families will find today's prisoner release, with their arrogant flag-waving?"

He added: "Given the seriousness of their crimes, the early release of paramilitary prisoners should not be a cause for celebration for anyone, but rather something we have to reluctantly live with for the sake of the wider peace we all hope for."

Yesterday Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said that the early releases had been "a tough decision" but she argued that it was part of the Good Friday agreement that had been overwhelming backed in the referendum.

A widow, Ann Finlay, whose husband was murdered by loyalist gunmen outside their Belfast home, said: "They have let the murderers win."

The Northern Ireland office denied having adopted a low-key approach to yesterday's releases. A spokesman said: "It was done simply on a first come, first served basis for prisoners who the commissioners said met the criteria for early release. We hope to accelerate the process with more releases next week though the exact numbers aren't known yet. The hope is to have 200 freed before Christmas and the terms of the agreement provide for 400 to be released in two years."

A seventh man released under the agreement, from Magilligan prison, said that he did not belong to any paramilitary organisation. Mark Bellringer had served just over half a seven-year sentence for manslaughter in what police describe as a sectarian attack.

As he left the Maze, Gerard Magee, 34, who was serving 20 years for conspiracy to murder a prominent UDA leader, said in Gaelic: "It's excellent to be out. It's an historic day."

Alongside him was Sean McGuigan, 28, who served five years of a 12-year sentence for grievous bodily harm inflicted during a paramilitary beating, and Louis McNally, 54, who had served ten years of a 22-year sentence for conspiracy to murder security forces with a Semtex bomb.

Among the loyalists freed yesterday, Gary Hall had served six and a half years of a 14-year sentence for attempted murder. Hall, 28, was jailed in October 1993 for admitting being part of an Ulster Freedom Fighter unit who tried to kill a Catholic married couple in their home.

Daniel Annesley was between two and three years into a five-year sentence for trying to extort protection money from a businessman.

Matthew McCormick, 31, had served six years of a 14-year sentence for conspiracy to murder.

PAUL McERLANE

Louis McNally, who served ten years of a 22-year term, was welcomed by his wife

Ahern calls for 'major reform' of the RUC

THE Irish Prime Minister called for "major reform" of the Royal Ulster Constabulary yesterday when he met Chris Patten, the head of Northern Ireland's independent police review body.

After the talks in Dublin, Bertie Ahern said that Mr Patten faced a difficult year. A reform programme would have to be based on acceptance of the RUC by nationalists and Unionists in the Province.

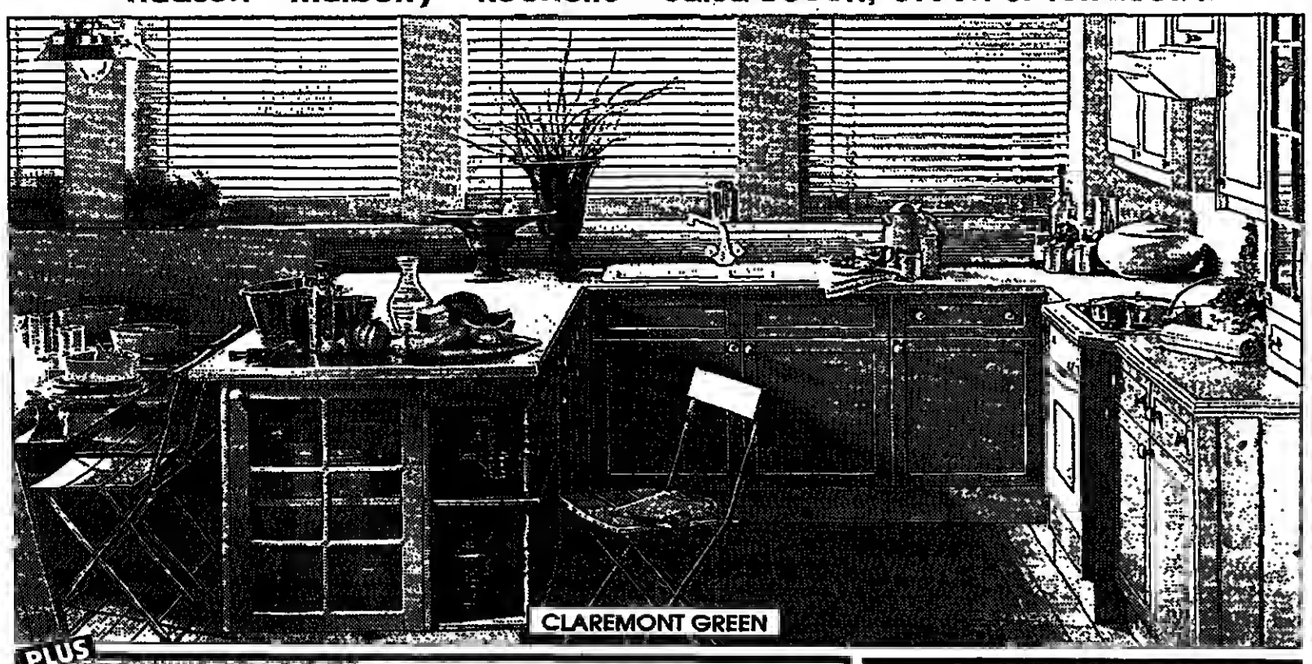
"We are talking about change that is inevitable. One of the important things is that Mr Patten is going to consult with the people and that is a very crucial aspect. We are not trying to tell him how to do his work, but we will be emphasising that major reform is necessary."

Earlier the Prime Minister had met John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party. Mr Ahern repeated his assertion that the decommissioning of IRA weapons before Sinn Fein's participation in the new Northern Ireland executive was not part of the peace agreement. But he said: "We have to work on both sides to see where we can get agreement on this issue."

33% OFF

ALL THESE KITCHEN UNITS†

Ashton • Ashworth • Chalon • Claremont Green or Ivory • Draycott • Hudson • Mulberry • Rochelle • Salsa Beech, Green or Terracotta



PLUS 25% OFF ALL THESE KITCHEN UNITS†

• Alaska • Badmintan • Blueberry • Chambray • Deauville • Goodwood • Hanover • Harewaod • Malvern • Pickering • Rishton • Sandhurst • Stoneleigh • Vermant

UP TO £500 OFF KITCHEN FITTING

Choose o B&Q kitchen from o choice of 10 selected designs ond you con save up to £500 on B&Q's Guoronteed Installation Service when you spend over £3,000 in one transaction.

- Free Pre-fitting Survey
- All B&Q installations have o written guorantee backed by B&Q
- All installations carried out by quolified tradesmen

HOW MUCH YOU CAN SAVE

SPEND	SAVE
£3,000 - £3,999.99	£300
£4,000 - £4,999.99	£400
£5,000 or more	£500

LOW COST FINANCE ON ANY KITCHEN PURCHASE OVER £1,000

Low Cost Finance is available on all kitchens in the B&Q range when you spend over £1,000 in one transaction and you can include everything you need to complete your kitchen, including units, tiles, lights, appliances and other accessories, as well as any installation or delivery costs. You can choose between 12, 24 and 36 month repayment terms.

13.9% APR (Variable)

EXAMPLE REPAYMENT :
Cash Price £1,500
Deposit (10% min.) £150
Loan Amount £1,350
Term 24 months. 23 monthly repayments of £64.64 plus 1 payment of £64.52.
Total repayable including deposit - £1,701.24

Credit available subject to acceptance to UK residents aged 18 or over. 10% minimum deposit required. Ask in store for details. Written quotations available on request. B&Q plc.

FREECALL 0800 444 840 for your free copy of the B&Q kitchen brochure to see all the beautiful kitchens in our range.

FREE home visit · FREE planning and design · FREE delivery · GUARANTEED installation · EASY Payments

You can do it when you B&Q it!

EARN TESCO CLUBCARD POINTS AT B&Q. Ask in store for details. Does not apply in B&Q Warehouses or B&Q Depots.

OPENING HOURS
Monday-Saturday: Most stores 8am-8pm.
Sunday: Most stores England & Wales 10am-4pm (where permitted). Scotland 9am-6pm & Northern Ireland 1pm-6pm.
Certain store hours may vary, please 'phone your nearest store to confirm.
THE UK'S BIGGEST D.I.Y. CHAIN – FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE 0181 466 6166
Internet – http://www.diy.co.uk

B&Q

Offers may vary at B&Q Warehouses and B&Q Depots. Please refer to our Price Promise. Ask in store for details of all offers. Offers are subject to availability. All kitchens and appliances may not be displayed or stocked in all stores but can be ordered, subject to availability and while stocks last. Please 'phone to check before travelling. Kitchen units are self-assembly. Home visit, planning and design service subject to availability. Free delivery on purchases of 8 units or more. All guarantees subject to terms and conditions. Installation only available with B&Q kitchens and ask in store for costs and details of this service. Installation service is subject to availability. † Discounts are on kitchen units only. We regret that takeaway kitchens, the rigid kitchen and installation or delivery charges are not included in the kitchen units discount offers.

Judge calls for inquiry into race campaign

By A Correspondent

A JUDGE at the Old Bailey yesterday urged the Attorney-General to investigate activists who tried to turn the death of a 16-year-old Asian into a "racial cause célèbre".

Campaigners tried to persuade the father of Manesh Patel to hold up a banner outside court. They bombarded the family with telephone calls during and after the trial to persuade them to criticise the police and back their claim that the killing was racially motivated.

Yesterday two white youths aged 16 and 17 were sentenced for the attack on Manesh, from Kenton, West London, last year, but Judge Graham Bosl, QC, said the motives had been about bullying, not race. The 16-year-old youth was sentenced to 3½ years detention and the older boy was given 80 hours community service.

The judge told the 16-year-old: "That decent, inoffensive 16-year-old [Manesh] had his young life snuffed out as a result of an episode of mindless violence. Whatever caused you to behave in the way you did I am convinced it was not racially motivated.

"It is extremely regrettable that anyone would think to approach Mr and Mrs Patel during the course of the trial. It would have served only to exasperate their distress. In my view the Patel family treated the situation with considerable restraint." He ordered that a transcript of his remarks and case papers be sent to John Morris, QC, the Attorney-General.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jail switch for Noye

Kenneth Noye has been transferred to prison in Madrid to await extradition proceedings. Noye, 51, arrested near Cádiz last month, is wanted for questioning in connection with the "road-rage" murder of Stephen Cameron, 21, on the M25 at Swanley in Kent in May 1996. He was moved from maximum security in Cádiz to Valdemoro jail in the capital on the orders of Judge Baltasar Garzon of the National Court, who will decide whether to extradite him.

Police chief demoted

Chief Superintendent Stewart Hindley, 42, has been stripped of his rank and removed from his job as police divisional commander in Wigan after admitting a drink-driving offence. Greater Manchester Police refused to reveal his new rank. He had already resigned as vice-chairman of the Superintendents' Association.

Glitter case adjourned

The court case against the pop singer Gary Glitter, 54, was adjourned until November 26 at North Avon Magistrates' Court. Under his real name, Paul Gadd, he faces more than 100 charges relating to child-pornography and alleged sexual offences with under-age girls. Glitter was released on conditional bail.

Polluter fined £250,000

The Danish owners of a small container ship were fined the maximum penalty of £250,000 plus costs of £1,243 yesterday after an oil slick was seen in the wake of the vessel off Land's End in July. The prosecution against the owners of the *Weser* was brought at Southampton Magistrates' Court by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

Life imitates Street art

The actor Bruce Jones, who plays Les Battersby in *Coronation Street*, was banned from driving for three years and fined £2,000 after admitting drink-driving. Jones, 45, from Marple, Stockport, was arrested near a pub after police received a tip-off. His television character was also stopped for drink-driving.

Letting the side down

An eagle kept as the mascot of the Royal Air Forces Association is recovering after becoming airsick on a flight to Scotland. Macon was aboard a Hercules aircraft on a flight from RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire to RAF Leuchars in Fife. "He wasn't used to not flying under his own power," Gerry Halloran of the association said.

Split from grandchildren causes stress and illness

By Alexandra Frean, Social Affairs Correspondent

GRANDPARENTS who lose contact with their grandchildren are more likely to fall ill and experience emotional problems, research has found.

The grief and stress felt by older people who are denied access to their grandchildren after parental separation and divorce can frequently reduce grandparents' ability to care for themselves and to obtain vital health and social support services. The problem is compounded by the feeling of sheer powerlessness of grandparents who, against their wishes, are denied access to their grandchildren.

The report is sure to strike a chord with Baroness Thatcher, who recently confided to Sogo magazine her deep regret at seeing her children and grandchildren, who live abroad, so infrequently.

"My greatest delight is when my daughter-in-law sends me photographs of the grandchildren. Apart from seeing them in the flesh, that is the greatest pleasure I have in the whole year, far exceeding everything else," she said.

Linda Drew and Peter Smith of Goldsmiths College, London, who conducted the research, said grandparents often derived a great deal of their feelings of fulfilment and self-worth from the key role they play in supporting their extended family.

"Grandparents are important members of the family network, acting as caregivers, confidantes and companions to both parents and grandchildren," they said. "They also act as important role models."

About 70 per cent of middle-aged and older people become grandparents. Paternal grandparents are more likely to lose contact with their grandchildren because it is often the mother who is given custody of the children on divorce.

Typically 44 per cent of those denied contact with their grandchildren experience physical health problems and 46 per cent experience emotional difficulties as a result.

A spokeswoman for Age Concern said one of the problems was that grandparents had only limited legal rights of access to their grandchildren. The 1989 Children Act allows them to request a leave to seek an order for contact with a child but that can often involve lengthy and costly court proceedings.

"It is a huge problem. They become extremely distressed and it does tend to completely take over their whole lives. The worst aspect is that it seems so unfair and they have to go to court to do anything about it," she said.

Although family mediation can often be more effective than court action in resolving such family disputes, such services are not universally available. The report is based on a survey last year of 146 members of the Grandparents' Federation.

هكذا من الأصل

Our activists are mad, says Labour organiser

Leaked memo from promoted aide has embarrassed soccer-loving MP, writes **Philip Webster**

A LABOUR MP was frantically trying to mend fences with his constituents and party members last night after his former aide suggested that he cared far more about Arsenal than about them, and that most Labour activists were "social misfits, rejects of society or mentally ill".

The remarks were in a leaked memo from Dominic McElroy, who has left his job as personal assistant to Iain Coleman, MP for Hammersmith and Fulham, for a new job organising European elections for the party's North and Yorkshire region. Labour has started an inquiry into Mr McElroy's behaviour.

A downcast Mr Coleman, 40, said he was "fed up and embarrassed" about the memo, which Mr McElroy wrote to the MP's new aide to prepare him for his duties. The note never reached its intended recipient, Andrew Jackson, but instead found its way to the press.

Mr Coleman, speaking in his constituency office, said it was "silly and immature" and should never have been written: "I had nothing to do with this memo and it was never shown to me. I have done nothing wrong."

Mr McElroy had advised his successor: "Iain will not miss any Arsenal games for whatever reason. Clear diary and use whatever excuse necessary. Childcare is a good one, important vote at House of Commons (midweek games only) weddings, funerals, family events etc etc."

Coleman: called memo "silly and immature"

WHAT THE MP'S AIDE WROTE

"Most active members of the Labour party are social misfits, rejects of society or mentally ill"

"Iain will not miss any Arsenal games for whatever reason. Clear diary and use whatever excuse necessary. Childcare is a good one, important vote at Commons (midweek games only) weddings, funerals, family events etc"

Mr McElroy wrote that the diary was sent to Mr Coleman at home on a Friday afternoon so that his wife, Sally, could arrange baby-sitting. "If Sally requests any alterations that can be done (ie anything but cancelling a whip or an Arsenal game), just do it. It's easier in the long run."

Mr Coleman said: "This is the most worrying allegation of all — that somehow I put football fixtures before constituency and parliamentary duties. I have never tried to hide the fact that I am a fervent Arsenal fan. But both before I became an MP — I was leader of the council and Mayor of Hammersmith — and since, I have missed matches because of duties. It is just not true."

Under the heading "constituency relations", Mr McElroy said that the secretary, Sue O'Neill, was "basically a good bureaucrat" but "very set in her ways, as you will find out." He advised: "The way I have dealt with her is to agree to absolutely everything she says and be pleasant."

His most wounding barbs were directed at the party members: "As you are probably aware, most active members of the Labour Party are social misfits, rejects of society or mentally ill. They will ring up and assume that anyone who is in the office runs the Hammersmith and Fulham Labour Party. The best way to deal with these people is to suggest they leave a message on the party's answerphone downstairs for Sue and she will deal with it."

Of the constituency work, he wrote: "Casework ranges on various subjects. Some are very serious and quite distressing. Others relate to questions about policy. The remainder are from constituents who do not need their MP but generally need either a social worker, a police officer, a counsellor (not a Hammersmith and Fulham sort of councillor) or more frequently professional help with their mental stability.

"Often letters , or more frequently phone calls, are received from one of the following groups of people: Tory activists, the mentally unstable, fox-hunters, Labour Party activists. Generally these people are just timewasting. Get them to write in. Then a standard letter can be sent."

Mr Coleman said: "These were extremely foolish and unfair things to write. I must stress it is not my view but Dominic's. I think he was trying to be tongue-in-cheek and clearly does not believe this, but he should not have done it."

Mr Jackson was told how to claim Mr Coleman's expenses: "Each month two claim forms should be submitted to the Fees Office. The first is for Iain's Tube travel between the constituency and Westminster. There is an example of how to fill this in. Assume one return journey each working day but allow for recesses.

"The other form is for car use. I am not very good at doing this one. All I can advise is that 350 miles of travel within the constituency can (and should) be claimed each month."

Mr Coleman said: "There is nothing improper here. I travel a lot more than 350 miles a month within the constituency. I do at least two or three surgeries a week, any number of school and other visits."

Mr McElroy could not be contacted yesterday. A party spokesman in London said: "We view this matter very seriously." Tony Blair has put huge store on recruiting more members.

Phoebe Turoczy, 9, the great-great-great-great-neice of the Czech composer Dvorak, is the newest and youngest member of the girls' choir at Wells Cathedral, Somerset

Dewar's relaunch exposes divisions in Scottish Labour

By Shirley English

DONALD DEWAR was facing a grassroots revolt yesterday as he unveiled his personal vision for post-devolution Scotland and pledged that, under Labour, the country would not be "walking out on Britain."

But what was meant to be a clarion call to the electorate on the first anniversary of the devolution referendum backfired when the Scottish Secretary's rebranding of the party as Scottish New Labour exposed old divisions in the party north of the border.

Angry MPs and party officials said they had not been consulted about the new logo, which was chosen after work with focus groups, and that it was an attempt to "change the party's name by stealth".

Yesterday Mr Dewar denied that he planned to change the party's name and insisted that traditional Scottish values of social justice and fighting poverty would be the foundations of Scottish New Labour.

"Scotland need not be, indeed it must not be, a prisoner of our past. The new age demands a new Scottish Labour Party," he said.

Symbolically, his mission statement, *A Lifetime of Opportunity*, was launched to his own constituents in Glasgow Anniesland at a community centre in a run-down estate rather than to journalists in a city-centre hotel. The document, which placed education at its heart, is understood to have been approved by Tony Blair and Gordon Brown in July. It will form the basis of the party's manifesto for May's Scottish parliament elections.

Dewar: MPs criticised his "unilateral" action

Calling Labour a "truly national party" and labelling the Government "a great reforming administration", Mr Dewar insisted: "We will not hesitate to walk our own way where it is right to do so and to take a different approach to Westminster. Labour offers Scotland the right to secure the benefits of independent decision-making; control of the sweep of our domestic affairs without the costs of walking out on Britain."

He said there would be Scottish solutions for Scottish problems. He also highlighted the pledges on land reform and the abolition of feudalism, nursery places for all three-year-olds and plans for community schools and community-based housing associations as distinctive Scottish policies that would not be found south of the border.

But yesterday members of the Scottish Executive said that they had not seen the document and could not discuss its contents until they received copies at their meeting in Glasgow today.

Objecting to the way the new campaign logo had been chosen, Bob Thomson, the Scottish party's treasurer, said: "There is a general issue of democracy within the party. There was no discussion about this. It is a political mistake and my view is shared by the majority of activists and a substantial group on the executive."

Ian Davidson, MP for Glasgow Pollok, who was rejected as a potential Scottish parliament candidate, said the change had been imposed unilaterally. "This came about from work with focus groups. Will the party now be expecting the same focus groups to put up posters and deliver leaflets at the next election?"

Labour and the SNP are deadlocked in the polls and the party's decision to focus on Mr Dewar's personal vision was seen as a major vote of confidence in the Scottish Secretary, whose leadership has been questioned after a series of sleaze-related public relations disasters.

In a recent NOP poll for *The Sunday Times*, 44 per cent of voters said Alex Salmond, leader of the SNP, would make the best first minister in the new parliament, compared with 40 per cent for Mr Dewar.

Yesterday the Tories labelled Mr Dewar's vision statement "another set of phoney promises for Labour to break at the first opportunity". The SNP said it was the fifth relaunch Labour had had in Scotland.

Mr Dewar will be formally chosen as first minister-elect by the Scottish party next Saturday. He is standing unopposed. It is understood some that Scottish MPs withheld their nominations in protest at his "coronation" as party leader.

Queen goes shopping to show common touch

By James Landale
Political Correspondent

THE Queen heads for Brunei and Malaysia next week in the first of a series of new-style state visits in which she will meet more ordinary people and fewer dignitaries. Her itinerary will include shopping malls, health centres, fruit markets and a recording studio.

Buckingham Palace said that the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were keen to see as much of ordinary daily life as possible in the two countries. "To our minds, that's something different," a spokesman said.

The Queen, who will also attend the Commonwealth Games in Malaysia, will be accompanied by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and his wife Gaynor, who will be travelling with her husband on her first big foreign trip.

The Palace and the Foreign Office are keen to avoid the public relations and diplomatic disaster of last year's state visit to India and Pakistan. The Queen caused a row after hinting in a speech that the two countries should put aside their differences and Mr Cook provoked fury by reportedly suggesting that he could mediate over Kashmir. For the first time, Mr Cook will be accompanied by a senior press officer.

The Palace said that the trip would show support for the two countries at the height of the Asian financial crisis. "We want to show how much we value links at a time of economic difficulties and how Britain is no fair-weather friend," the spokesman said.

The Queen, who leaves on Thursday, will spend three days in Brunei. She is expected to visit a mosque, requiring her to take off her shoes and to cover her head, and to see a "water village", where houses stand on stilts. She will spend four days in Malaysia, where she will visit the Petronas Twin Towers, the tallest building in the world.

Leading article, page 29

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST RANGE OF TELEPHONES

FREE Buying Guide
AVAILABLE IN-STORE NOW!

The Link

Latest Digital Cordless Phones

- SUPERB SOUND QUALITY
- ADD ADDITIONAL HANDSETS WITH NO EXTRA TELEPHONE WIRING
- INCREASED CALL SECURITY
- A RANGE OF UP TO 300 METRES

NEW

SAMSUNG DIGITAL CORDLESS PHONE
- 10 number memory
- Add up to 5 additional handsets
- 10 hours talktime/ 55 hours standby

Model: SPR 5100
£99.99

- Add up to 5 additional handsets with no extra wiring
- 10 memories for storing your most called numbers
- Also available in grey

Model: 2010
NEW EXCLUSIVE
£128.99

- 13 minutes digital recording time
- Caller display feature (subject to BT subscription)

Model: ALTISET VOCAL
Was £189.99
SAVE £20
£169.99

CORDLESS TELEPHONES FROM ONLY £29.99

SOUTHWESTERN BELL CORDLESS PHONE
- Available in White, Green or Blue
- Paging facility from base to handset
- 10 memories for storing your most called numbers

Model: FF777
Was £49.99
SAVE £10
£39.99

BT CORDLESS PHONE WITH DIGITAL ANSWERING MACHINE
- Operate answering machine through any phone
- 8 self-selecting frequency channels for clearer call reception

Model: FREESTYLE 1100/1100+
BEST SELLER
£97.99

SOUTHWESTERN BELL CORDLESS PHONE
- Over 100 metres range
- 9 number memory
- Intercom between handset and base

Model: 790
In-store Price £34.99
SAVE £5 VOUCHER PRICE £29.99

BT CORDLESS TELEPHONE
- 4 channel auto selection
- 10 number memory
- Paging facility

Model: FREESTYLE 80/80+
In-store Price £58.99
SAVE £4 VOUCHER PRICE £54.99

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST RANGE
Choose from 100 telephones, over 15 faxes, 50 mobiles and 10 pagers, in-store now.

EXPERT ADVICE
We will always recommend the right telephone to meet your needs.

GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES
We won't be beaten on price.*

147 STORES NATIONWIDE
Freephone 0500 222 666
For your nearest store or to order direct

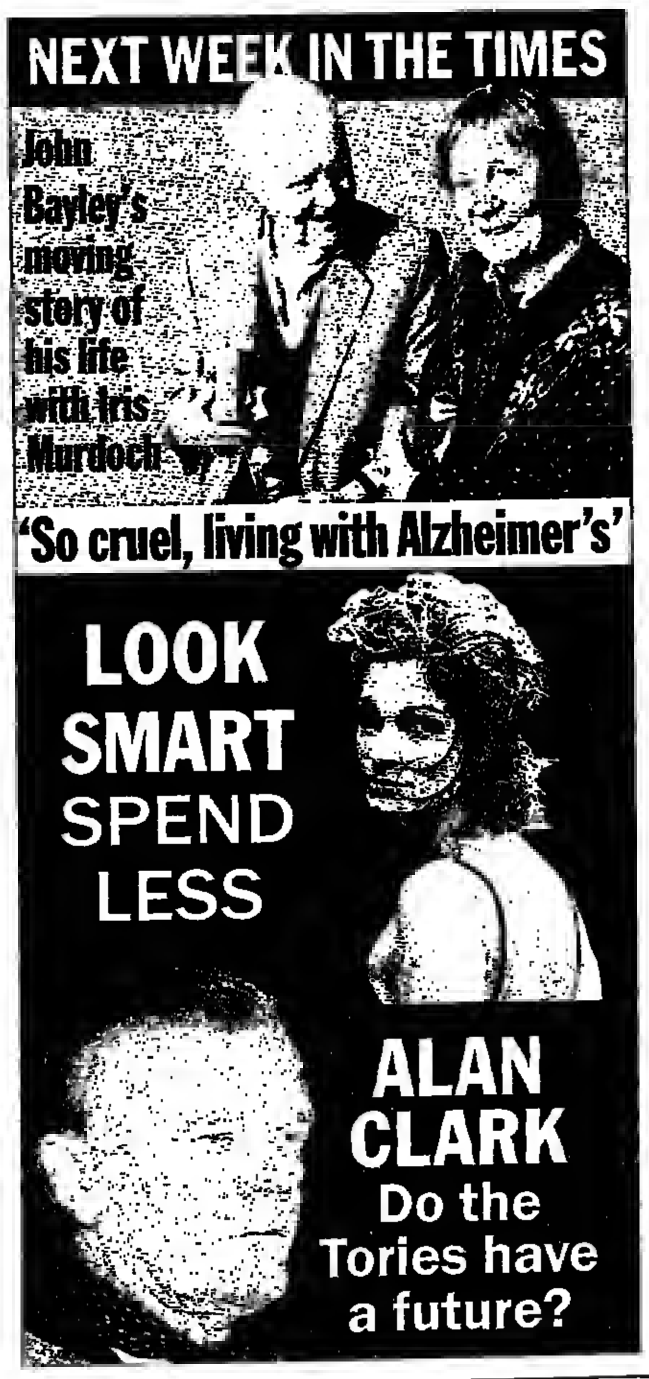
The Link

TO FIND THE RIGHT PHONE – FIND THE RIGHT LINK

WATCH OUT FOR OUR VOUCHER SPECIALS
Look out for the special voucher savings on the products in this advertisement. Simply take this advert to any Link store to claim your discount. One voucher saving per purchase. Not for use with other offers. Branch use only. Discount using Code 4 (Head Office offer). HURRY! These voucher prices valid only until Wednesday, 16th September 1998 unless otherwise stated.

*If you find exactly the same package cheaper locally within 7 days, we will refund the difference.

Part of DSG Retail Ltd



London's streets paved with gold by passing cars

Reports by Nigel Hawkes and Nick Nuttall

A LATTER-DAY Dick Whittington would find the streets of London — and all British cities — paved with gold, platinum and other precious metals.

The metals are coming off catalytic converters fitted to cars and are deposited by exhaust fumes. Levels are rising so fast as the number of cars with converters increases that that it will soon make economic sense to pan the deposits like the Klondyke miners of old, a scientist said yesterday.

Hazel Prichard, a geologist from Cardiff University, told the British Association: "The levels of platinum, which is worth more than gold, are quite high ... we are approaching economic levels."

Dr Prichard used her domestic dustpan and brush to take measurements of roadside and pavement dust levels at roundabouts in Cardiff — surprising passers-by.

"I got out at half-past six in my black BMW on a Sunday morning when I thought there would be little traffic around. I took out my dustpan and brush and when I looked up there were two paper boys looking at me in utter amazement. We've got a mad woman here," she recalled. At 8.15am she was spotted by a lady walking her dog: "She could not believe her eyes. Someone sweeping the road furiously."

She said the highest levels of precious metals were found in the "posh area" of Cyncoed where there are more new cars, which must be fitted with catalysts.

Dr Prichard found that concentrations in the dust were up to 126 parts per billion for platinum, 99 for palladium and 22 for rhodium, with trace amounts of gold. The natural, background, level for platinum in Britain is less than one part per billion.

But the scientist said when the dust was refined — using a method that mimics gold panning in a stream — to discard the light dust particles, concentrations leapt tenfold.

Dr Prichard recorded concentrations of 1,679 parts per billion for platinum; 2,945 for palladium, 272 for gold and 220 for rhodium. The levels almost exactly reflect the ratios of the metals used in the manufacture of catalytic converters. She said platinum, which is mined in South Africa and northern Siberia with around a third of the output going into the converters, becomes economic at around 4,000 parts per billion. "Catalysts have been around only since the 1980s here in Britain. If it goes on building up at this rate we will be able to recycle it," Dr Prichard said.

Gold is valued at about £165 an ounce, platinum £210 an ounce, and palladium more.

Dr Prichard said that whereas mining companies get around 1oz of platinum per ten tonnes of material, the roadside metals did not need expensive crushing. Once the "fag ends" had been sifted out and the dust separated it would be possible to smelt what was left with nickel sulphide to make platinum beads.

The scientist suggested that one way of collecting the dust might be to visit sites where roadsweepers dump their waste. Some of the metals can also be found in Cardiff Bay, where the River Taff meets the sea, after being washed down the drains.

Dr Prichard, who normally studies precious metals in rocks from South Africa to the Shetlands, said little was known about the effects of platinum and other metals in the environment and its impact on human health.

Most people consider the metal, which is used to reduce emissions from cars, to be benign, immobile and not particularly reactive. But the scientist said it can oxidise, which makes it easier for it to move around in the environment. "It does get into plants and bodies. But as for the effects, we do not know."

Some researchers have suggested that the dusts of precious metals are part of a mixture of tiny particulates in the air. These come from man-made sources such as soot emitted by diesel engines and natural sources such as sea spray, and lodge in the lungs where they cause breathing problems. It is also claimed that they can trigger heart attacks in the unwell or old by causing the blood to thicken.

HUW EVANS

Roadside gold mine: Hazel Prichard found precious metals left by catalytic converters

Triple-jab fall could cause rise in measles

THE number of children getting the triple vaccine against measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) has fallen to a level where outbreaks of measles can be expected in a few years' time, the British Association was told yesterday.

Roland Salmon, of the Public Health Laboratory Service, said surveys had shown that the uptake of the vaccine had fallen to about 85 per cent. This follows a report from researchers at the Royal Free Hospital in London suggesting that the triple vaccine may be linked to autism and a bowel disorder.

"If this persists up to school age, we can expect measles outbreaks to occur when children start mixing with others of their own age," Dr Salmon said. "And if it persists up to the age when unvaccinated women start to have babies, we we see cases of rubella syndrome." This is the condition in which babies born to women who catch measles during pregnancy are deaf, blind, and have heart defects.

Julius Weinberg, also of the PHLS, said that the danger was of going back to the situation in which about 50 babies a year were born with the condition: "Our view is that the triple vaccine is the best way of contolling these diseases and we hope that more mothers will bring their babies for vaccination."

☐ Ethical investors are not quite as ethical as they may appear. Alan Lewis, of the University of Bath, discovered that only a fifth of 1,100 ethical investors he consulted insisted that all their money be put in companies whose environmental, moral and ethical precepts they agreed with.

Professor warns on dangers of psychology

MOST modern psychology is junk science that tells people nothing they did not already know and can be dangerous to those it claims to help, a psychologist told the meeting.

Ian Parker, based at the Bolton Institute in Lancashire, said: "The use of psychology ranges from the nonsense peddled in advice columns and chat shows in the name of 'science' to the brutalising of patients subjected to drug treatments or electroshock."

Professor Parker said there was now growing alarm and dissent inside the profession reflecting the suspicions and worries of lay people: "An increasing number of academics and professionals are complaining that psychological theory and practice is so banal as to hardly differ from commonsense or is so jargonised as to be useless except to a specialist in-group of scientists."

He described the first stirrings of a movement of academics worldwide to drive new and more enlightened thinking into the profession. He said a movement, called the "critical psychology" movement, had formed to fight banality and missuse in psychological theory.

The Psychology Politics Resistance, a network of 500 researchers worldwide, was helping to spearhead this reform.

Professor Parker, a leading light in the movement, said that more critical academic courses were needed to further the challenge to mainstream psychology alongside the development of victim support groups "speaking out against the abuse of power by psychologists".

Don't judge liars on body language

By Mark Henderson

STEREOTYPED views of how people behave when they lie may be holding back criminal investigations, new research presented to the British Psychological Society has found.

The belief that liars fidget, stutter and avoid eye contact is widespread among the police even though academic research bas discredited such signals as indicators of lying. Aldert Vrij, Reader in Applied Social Psychology at Portsmouth University, told the Society's criminology conference in Durham yesterday.

In fact, practised liars often behave in the opposite way and appear unnaturally calm, making fewer gestures and giving a rehearsed and rigid impression to ontookers, Dr Vrij said.

Police misconceptions about lying led many officers to overestimate their ability to detect lies and hampered investigations. A study comparing officers and students found that neither group was better at spotting lies.

Contrary to popular belief, people who are lying slow down to think about their answers, using fewer gestures and maintaining eye contact as they concentrate on putting together a plausible falsehood.

Laboratory studies of behaviour while lying demonstrate this effect. Dr Vrij's team recently studied a convicted murderer's police interview, where they knew categorically which answers were truthful and which were lies. "When he was lying he made fewer movements. He did not show nerves when telling brazen untruths," said Dr Vrij.

هكذا من الأصل

Trapped farmer cuts off arm with a penknife

An accident with a baling machine led to a drastic life-saving decision, reports Robin Young

A FARMER described yesterday how he cut off his forearm with a pocket knife to save his life after his hand was trapped in a baling machine. John Mitson, 46, retrieved his mangled hand from the machine and walked to a nearby house, carrying the remnants of his severed limb.

An ambulance was called and his forearm was packed in ice but the damage was too severe to sew it back on when he arrived at hospital.

Mr Mitson, a single man, was towing a baling machine behind his tractor on his smallholding near Stonham Aspal, Suffolk. He thought that the baling machine had developed a fault and stopped to investigate, but as be approached the baler he stumbled and fell forward into the mechanism.

As he threw out his arm to break his fall, his band was caught between two rollers, threatening to pull his body into the machinery. Mr Mitson said yesterday: "My first reaction was to try and pull my hand back but it was too late, the machine had grabbed hold of it. I began shouting for help but nobody came.

"Nobody could hear me. I was trying to pull my hand out but it was wearing my wrist away, and I was trapped for about half an hour.

"I was getting pretty close to the end of my time. I was having dizzy spells. I knew that I either bad to get out now or pass out and never know what had happened after. I think the machine would have wound me in.

"To me it was just sheer survival and logic. I had to get out and I could not do it by pulling my forearm out, so I just cut it off."

By that time he had lost all feeling in the arm. After using what he described as a ladies' penknife, Mr Mitson walked almost half a mile to the nearest house and was initially taken by ambulance to a hospital at Ipswich.

Doctors decided that the arm could not be saved and he was transferred to the West Norwich Hospital, where a unit specialises in such injuries.

Surgeons sewed up the wound and Mr Mitson is now back home, nearly a month later, trying to carry out his everyday tasks with only his left hand. He may be able to have an artificial limb attached in the future.

He managed to joke about it yesterday: "I am a bit short-handed around the farm, but my neighbours and family are helping out. The worst bit is thinking back to making the decision to cut my own hand off. That is the bit that hurts.

"I don't think I took any risks with the machine. It was just one of those things that happen. You cannot have guards on all parts of the machinery."

Peter Moffat, communications manager for West Norwich Hospital, said: "This was a freak accident. There were a whole range of contributory factors, right down to the length of his arm.

"If his arm had been a couple of inches shorter, it would never have got caught up. To cut his arm off and then go for help was a quite remarkable achievement."

STUART CONWAY

Hayley Grinyer modelling the Union Jack outfit in front of less revealing souvenirs

Fashion variety from life of Spice

By John Vincent

IT HARDLY rates as haute couture. But this little number, run up for a few pounds, is worth a fortune.

The celebrated Union Jack outfit worn by Geri Halliwell at last year's Brit Awards ceremony is the ultimate in DIY dressmaking. The former Spice Girl's sister Karen osed cheap material to ruo up a corset and theo stitched on an old flag.

Yesterday the outfit went on show at Sotheby's in London before going under the hammer next Wednesday, when it is expected to fetch up to £12,000. It is among Halliwell's personal collection of 89 Spice Girl mementoes that are expected to raise about £75,000 for Sargent Cancer Care for Children.

Her bright red MG sports car is up for grabs at an estimated £5,000 and the boots she wore with the Union Jack outfit are valued at around £1,000. A polka-dot suit she wore on a visit to the Prince of Wales at Highgrove is estimated at £500.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE MAN WHO MADE MARGARET

Sir Edward Heath has had an extraordinary life, rising from humble origins to great power and honour, but for the past quarter century his achievements have heen overshadowed by his feud with Margaret Thatcher. At the age of 82, he is at last revealing in his memoirs the inside story of this bitter rift

Only in News Review tomorrow

THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Rabbi fights synagogue sale of rare books

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

A RABBI yesterday attacked a plan by colleagues to sell off a £2 million collection of historic Jewish manuscripts and books dating back to the 15th century.

Harry Rabinowicz, denounced the proposal by the United Synogogue, which represents 66 synagogues in and around London, as disposing of the "family silver", an important part of Jewish heritage. "Anglo-Jewry is to be deprived of its literary heritage," he said.

The United Synagogue, set up by an act of Parliament in the last century, acquired the collection in 1842 with a £300 bequest. It originally belonged to Rabbi Solomon Hirschell who, in 1802, became the first Chief Rabbi and who was a leading collector of books. The proposed sale includes up to 4,000 books, 148 manuscripts and 11 incunabula, as well as some silver valued at a further £80,000.

Dr Rabinowicz, former regional rabbi for Cricklewood, Willesden and Brondesbury Synagogue, said: "In 1939, there were 469 Jewish libraries with a total of more than 3 million books in 20 European countries.

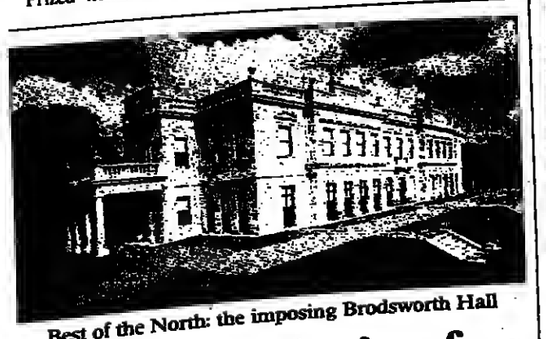
In Poland alone, there were 251 Jewish libraries, 75 per cent of which were destroyed in the war. Like the Jews themselves, books were in exile, scattered and destroyed."

Prized items in the collection, which covers every subject from biblical commentaries to works on mathematics and medicine, include the Ashkenazi prayer book, the first Jewish book produced by a printing press, in Prague in 1505; there is only one other copy, which is in the Bodleian Library, Oxford. It is valued at more than £100,000. Dr Rabinowicz dismissed the United Synagogue's claim that the money raised will be allocated to "certain vital projects, among which, of course, would be the Pension Fund", as "just an excuse". Pensioners would get only £80 from such a sale, he said.

"It is difficult to believe that it is beyond the resources of Anglo-Jewry to establish and maintain a National Jewish Library. Rome and Paris have them." He called on the United Synagogue to reconsider.

The United Synagogue represents the premiere Orthodox congregrations, more than 20,000 families, and is presided over by the Chief Rabbi, Jonathan Sacks. It would need to secure the permission of the Charities Commission to sell the collection.

The matter is to be debated at a council meeting on Monday. In a statement prepared for it, the president of the United Synagogue, Elkan Levy, said that the substantial holdings of rare books were "not being properly used" as it lacked the ability to care for or display the treasures.



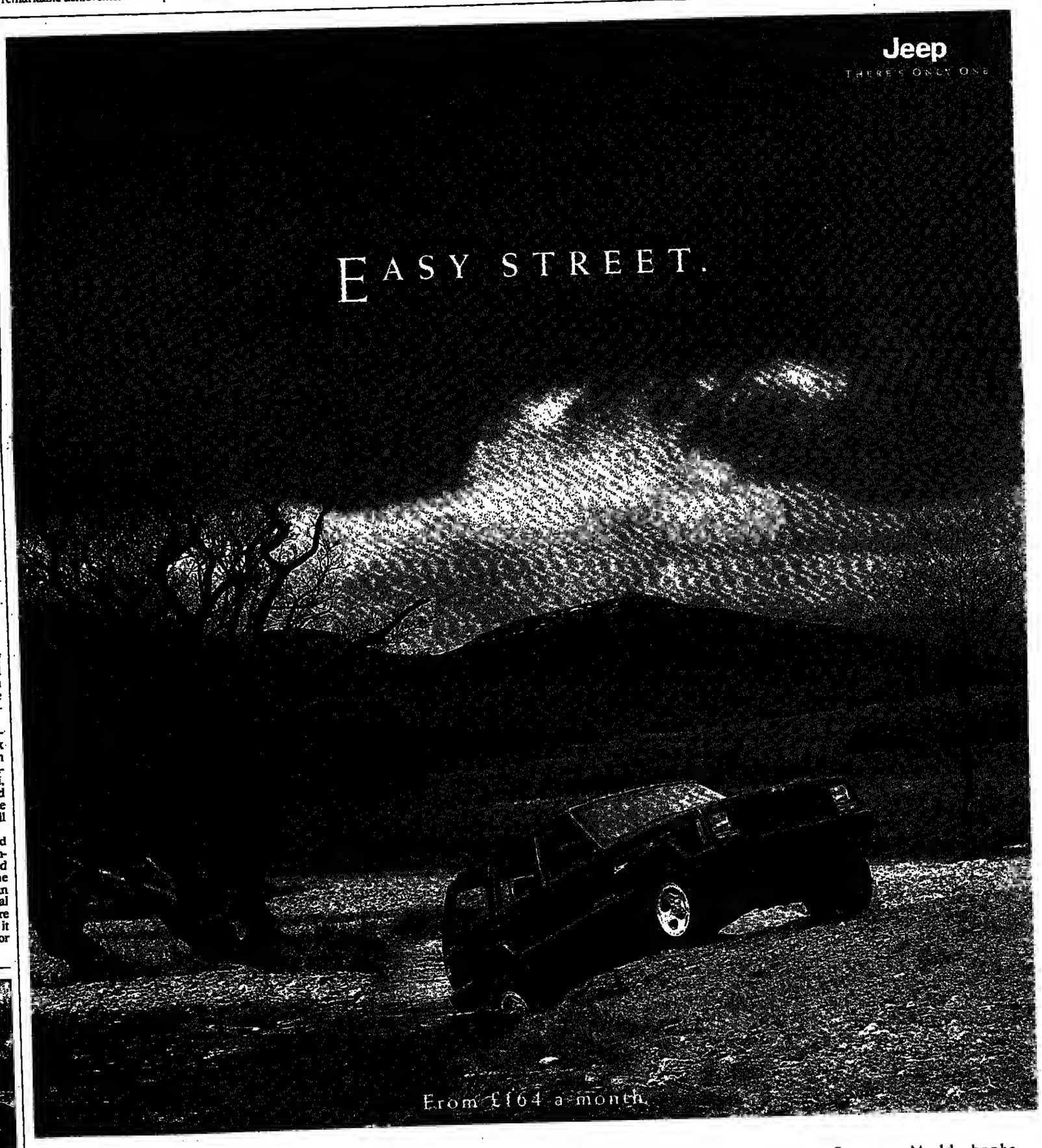
Best of the North: the imposing Brodsworth Hall

People's choice for homes of history

THE public's 23 favourite historic houses were named yesterday, rated by visitors who completed forms asking about their merits and shortfalls.

Judges drew up the shortlist from more than 500 houses nominated by the public for the National Heritage Awards from the pension provider NPI. The overall winner will be announced in the spring.

The list by region is: Wales — Powis Castle, Erddig Hall, Penrhyn Castle; Ireland — Mount Stewart, No 29 Dublin; Northern England — Brodsworth Hall; Yorkshire — Mirehouse; Cumbria — Levens Hall; Scotland — Brodie Castle, Fyvie Castle, Brodick Castle; South Eastern England — Audley End House, Blickling Hall, Oxburgh Hall; South England — Waddesdon Manor, Dover Castle, Chiswick House; West Country — Pencarrow, Hartland Abbey, Compton Castle; Midlands — Moseley Old Hall, Boscobel, Chavenage.



You'll find it easy to get over any obstacle in the Jeep Cherokee 2.5 litre Sport. Mountains. Streams. Muddy banks. Now even the cost won't present a problem. For just £164* a month with tbe Jeep Comfort finance package (or £18,220 on the road) this legendary off roader can be yours. As well as unstoppable 4x4, it comes with power steering, driver and front passenger air bags and side impact protection guards. (So you won't just feel financially secure). Which means tackling the great outdoors should be just as easy as tackling the bank manager.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT YOUR LOCAL DEALER OR CALL 0800 616159.
OR SEND COUPON TO JEEP INFORMATION SERVICE, FREEPOST 1048, SANDWICH, KENT CT13 9BR.

MR/MRS/MISS/MS (Initials) ..... SURNAME ..... ADDRESS ..... PHONE HOME ..... PHONE BUSINESS ..... CETI 09-98
..... POSTCODE .....

*EXAMPLE SHOWN, CHEROKEE 2.5 LITRE SPORT. CASH PRICE £18,220.00 ON THE ROAD (INCLUDES 12 MONTHS ROAD FUND LICENCE AT £150 AND £25 FIRST REGISTRATION FEE). PRICE AND SPECIFICATION ARE CORRECT AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. TYPICAL EXAMPLE BASED ON 12,000 MILES PER ANNUM. CREDIT IS SUBJECT TO STATUS. A GUARANTEE OR INDEMNITY MAY BE REQUIRED. DEPOSIT £7,288.00, 36 MONTHLY INSTALMENTS OF £163.75, CREDIT FACILITY FEE OF £75 PAYABLE WITH FIRST INSTALMENT. FINAL PAYMENT (GUARANTEED MINIMUM END VALUE) OF £9,641.00. TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE IS £22,899.00. APR 15.8%

The cat's whiskers: Sprite | [illegible] profit from our principles

BBC talent scouts are on lookout for funny northerners

TV chiefs search for fresh faces to rescue the British sitcom, reports Russell Jenkins

BBC executives are beginning a search next week for a new generation of sitcom writers with a northern accent. The initiative aims to uncover the talent to create new hits.

The move comes as the BBC's latest gritty comedy of life up North, *The Royle Family*, starring Caroline Aherne, makes its debut on the BBC2 on Monday. Corporation executives based at BBC Manchester believe there is a well of comic talent to reinvent and reinvigorate British sitcoms.

The project, called Laughing Gas, will be launched next Tuesday in Liverpool and Manchester. It is a joint venture between BBC Manchester's entertainment and features department, the North West Arts Board and the Liverpool-based MIDA (Moving Image Development Agency). Writers will be invited to submit ideas for a sitcom with a regional flavour, and those shortlisted will have the chance to develop their work alongside professional scriptwriters and editors. The best two scripts will go forward into commissioning rounds.

The North West has produced a rich vein of comedy in the past, characterised by Carla Lane's prodigious output, including *The Liver Birds* and *Bread*. Wayne Garvie, Head of Entertainment and Features for the BBC, said that drama has been well served. Northern drama, and soap operas such as *Coronation Street* and *Brookside*, had honed a generation of writers ready to filter the human condition through a regional perspective, but this was not the case with the sitcom, now an undernourished part of the schedules.

"We need to encourage a northern voice," Mr Garvie said. "If you take Manchester, there is a comedy circuit that has devloped people like Caroline Aherne, Johnny Vegas, who has his own Channel 4 programme coming up at Christmas, and Peter Kay, who has a growing reputation on television. This coterie of talent was based around a Manchester pub called the Frog and Bucket where people gathered to exchange ideas. Consequently there is a whole group of young writers and young comic talent who are beginning to spread their wings a bit. We want to help take them on to the next area of development. This initiative is a chance to pinpoint talent, encourage it and give it a bit of a push."

Victoria Wood writes and stars in her first sitcom, *dinnerladies*, in the BBC's autumn schedules. *The Royle Family*, written by the *Mrs Merton* team of Aherne, Craig Cash and Henry Normal, is described as an ordinary tale of working-class folk charting "the drama and emotions of everyday family life, such as whose turn it is to go to the off-licence, set against the continuous hum of the television."

Mr Garvie said: "*The Royle Family* is a fantastically innovative sitcom. The writers all started out in Manchester. Their viewpoint is very nothern. It is a refreshing change from southern sitcom."

Cash said: "There is no easy way into writing for television, but this strikes me as an excellent way in. I look forward to seeing the winning scripts, as long as they are not as good as anything we do."

Television and Radio, Vision section

Madonna winning the Best Female Video trophy at the MTV awards in Los Angeles yesterday

TV setting for Chinese classic is a big turn-off

TWICE in the past three years, the American director Peter Sellars has brought work to the Barbican. And for all his ambitious inventiveness, he has twice left me wishing I had brought along a suicide kit.

In his *Merchant of Venice*, a deeply alienated Portia mooched amid television sets crammed with pictures of the Los Angeles riots. Now Sellars has transposed an opera by Shakespeare's Chinese contemporary, Tang Xianzu, to a not dissimilar setting. Television screens showing everything from falling leaves to the principals' eyebrows are beside and above the stage and inside Perspex screens containing big, glass marbles.

The effect is of a branch of Dixons redesigned by Terence Conran in one of his spare but chi-chi moods, and does little but subtract size and wonder from Tang's mythic tale about the power of Eros to destroy and to reanimate.

In part one's 90 minutes, Du Liniang idles in the family garden, dreams of the young scholar Liu

THEATRE
Peony Pavilion
The Barbican

Mengmei and, since he never appears, expires of frustrated love. She is played by two actresses at once. Hua Wenyi wears primrose pajamas, chants in Chinese and dances a bit. Lauren Tom wears trousers and talks in English. The words we hear or read on the surtitle board exude a clunky romanticism, filled with stuff about orioles coiling their songs, male forces surging and leaping, and brocade covers being "incense-aired". The undulating squeaks and stylised soprano chirrupings variously put me in mind of mice, canaries and failing police sirens.

Overall, this American-created orientalism has an ersatz feel that is not banished by the 100-minute second half, better though it is. Liu materialises and, after some ghostly encounters, resurrects Du from the shallow Perspex pool that represents her grave. The music is now pastiche plainsong, now swoops up and down the octaves with real yearning. We even discover Sellars's idea of what Chinese lovers intone as they come to climax inside a blanket. It is "hey-hoo, hey-ho". Does that make a long haul worthwhile? Not for me.

Benedict Nightingale

Finale approaches in race for top job at Radio 3

By Carol Midgley, Media Correspondent

THE race for the job of the Controller of Radio 3, regarded as a barometer of the BBC's commitment to public service broadcasting, will reach its final lap on Monday. A shortlist of at least three candidates has been drawn up by Matthew Bannister, the Director of BBC Radio, and the victor will be announced by the end of next week.

It has been one of the most hotly contested appointments in BBC Radio's history, with allegations of mud-slinging and rumours that the BBC management has already made its choice.

One of the candidates is said to be Roger Lewis, a former head of music for Radio 1 and the current president of Decca UK. Although the BBC will not say who has been shortlisted, sources say Mr Lewis is a favourite. He helped to build the profile of Nigel Kennedy as "Nige the Cockney", which popularised classical music, and in his previous job at EMI he helped to market popular collections such as *Canto Gregoriano*, *The Best Classical Album*.

If Mr Lewis is appointed it is likely to strike fear into the heart of classical music purists, who have complained that, under the previous Controller, Nicholas Kenyon, Radio 3 was beginning to sound like a "Classic FM drivetime station".

Hilary Boulding, Radio 3's commissioning editor for music policy and the only woman in the running, is another name said to be on the shortlist. Friends say she has been subjected to a "vicious and unjust" campaign to stop her getting the job. She has been called an "easy listening fanatic" and "fervent Birtist", but supporters say this is merely propaganda. A BBC source said: "She is an extremely strong candidate and some people are trying to launch a dirt campaign."

In the running: Roger Lewis, Roger Wright and James Jolley are said to be under consideration

Michael Berkeley, the composer and broadcaster, did not put his name forward, despite support from leading musicians, because he believed the BBC had already decided to appoint a controller who backed Sir John Birt, the BBC Director-General. A third name on the shortlist is said to be Roger Wright, BBC Head of Classical Music, who has an excellent knowledge of music and is popular with staff. If the BBC chooses him, the purists say, it will show a real commitment to classical programming.

Executives are also said to be considering Dennis Marks, the veteran BBC TV producer; John Willen, Head of Music at BBC Worldwide; John Evans, who works under Roger Wright as Head of Classical Music for Radio; Graham Sheffield, artistic director at the Barbican and James Jolley, the editor of *Gramophone* magazine. Second interviews will be conducted by Mr Bannister and Will Wyatt, Chief Executive of BBC Broadcast, and the appointment must be approved by Sir John and at least one BBC governor.

هكذا من الأهل

THE TIMES SATURDAY

Bad b

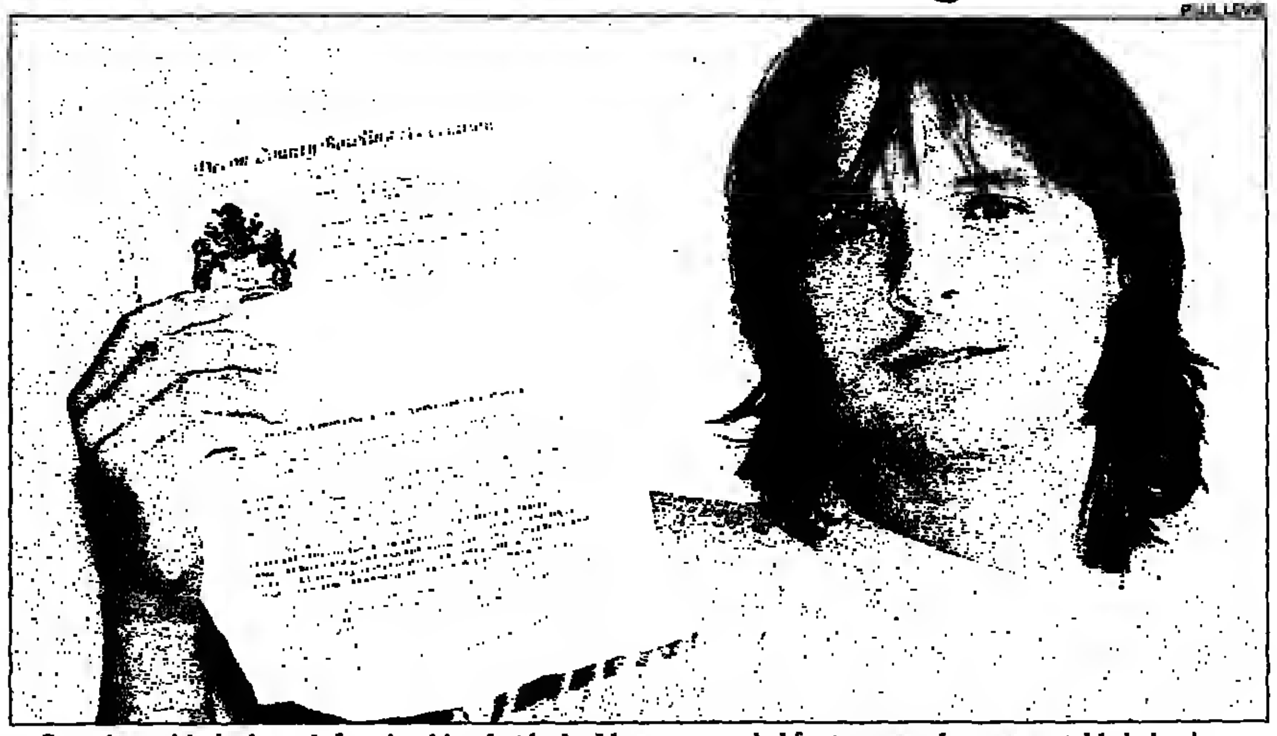
Man guilty of spanner attack on patient. 72

Farmers prote Tbone court

Bad boy of bowls is banned for ten years

Young star is thrown out for swearing, writes **Simon de Bruxelles**

Griff Saunders: Devon's youngest county player



Saunders with the letter informing him that he had been suspended for ten years for unacceptable behaviour

A YOUNG England bowls 'international' who likes to compare himself to John McEnroe and Paul Gascoigne has been banned for ten years for swearing at officials.

In a sport dominated by the middle-aged, 25-year-old Griff Sanders' long hair, hot temper and less than pristine "whites" marked him out as a trouble-maker. When he was heard cursing during the South West Counties Championship last month and caught scrawling "John Smerdon is a tosser" on his scorecard, they decided that the game was better off without him.

Yesterday Mr Sanders was banned from all outdoor bowls competitions by the Devon County Bowling Association for the slur on its honorary secretary, who was present at the game. Bowls insiders claim that Mr Sanders was venting frustration at being left out of the Devon first team, despite being the county's pairs champion last year.

In a statement the association said that his "unacceptable behaviour" had brought the game into disrepute and his membership had been suspended for ten years.

Mr Sanders, from Torquay, claimed yesterday that his energy and aggression were what bowls needed to shake off its reputation as a sport for the elderly and infirm. "It's like McEnroe, Gazza, Alex Higgins, Ian Botham — I've got a little bit of what they have," he said. "It's what makes me different, it's what makes me good. I put some emotion into the game. We all get agitated sometimes, on the rink I might run after the wood and shout, even swear sometimes. The game has got to change — this is the 1990s."

He claimed that Mr Smerdon had victimised him because he did not toe the official line and did not fit in on the bowling circuit. "I'm not going to be two-faced about it, I don't like him and I don't think he likes me. A ten-year ban — I couldn't believe it."

His father, David Sanders, 47, who introduced him to bowls at the age of ten, described the ban as ridiculous. He said: "We all reckon Griff should have been rapped across the knuckles for what he did, but a ten-year ban means the end of his career on outdoor greens. Unless he leaves Devon and is able to find another club, the only outdoor bowling he can do is in a village green friendly."

Alan Horwell, of Torquay's Kings Bowling Club, where Sanders plays, said the ban was the result of a clash of personalities. He said: "The hierarchy of the game does tend to be primarily people who have retired and who can give time to running the sport. It is those people who can have the most trouble accepting the younger generation.

"An awful lot of people think a ten-year ban is over the top. If he was in some other sport he would be a millionaire. When he gets it all together he is quite awesome.

"Everyone who knows him says he would be fine if he didn't keep pushing the self-destruct button. He is not too benevolent to his opponents, but that is true in all sports. But he is a very bad loser and it doesn't matter how good you are, everyone loses sometimes.

"He is a non-conformist. There's no way he would walk through town in his bowls gear. He tends to appear in his T-shirt, jeans and boots, with his woods and all his kit in his rucksack. Let's just say his whites don't get washed as often as some others' do."

Mr Sanders, who works as a painter and labourer, is to appeal to the English Bowling Association. In the past he has been warned for not wearing a tie and not wearing white socks on the bowling green. Last year he was forced to sign an undertaking to behave after not filling in his scorecard and copying the figures from his opponent at the end of the game. On another occasion he pretended to have had too much to drink at lunchtime and staggered around the green.

His eccentricities did not prevent his selection for the England Under-25 team or stop him becoming the youngest member of the Devon team that played against other southwest counties last month. Despite his fears, if he returns to bowls when he is 35 he will still be a youngster compared with the majority of players.

Man guilty of spanner attack on patient, 72

By Simon de Bruxelles

A HOSPITAL patient recuperating from an operation attacked an elderly man with a spanner because his screams kept him awake at night, a court heard yesterday.

David Powell, 5[illegible], admitted to a jury that he hit 72-year-old Gordon Gullick over the head to "quiet him down". Mr Gullick, a retired steelworker, died of unrelated causes three months later. He was never again able to sleep properly for fear of being attacked by Powell.

Hilary Roberts, for the prosecution, said Mr Gullick had been put in a single room next to Powell's ward at the Aberbeeg Hospital, near Abertillery, Gwent, because he was shouting in his sleep. Powell was recovering from a lung operation. "The nurses came to see Mr Gullick twice to calm him down, but it was after the third bout of calling out that Powell reacted," Mr Roberts said.

"He picked up a spanner used for opening oxygen cylinders and entered Mr Gollick's room to carry out the assault on the defenceless man."

Powell admitted hitting Mr Gullick four or five times. He told the court: "Mr Gullick was screaming all the time. I had had enough. I hit him four or five times until he quietened down. Then I stopped. I didn't want to kill him."

At the Cardiff Crown Court Powell, of Pontllanfraith, Gwent, denied wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm although he admitted a lesser charge of assault.

The jury found him guilty of the more serious offence. He now faces a maximum life sentence.

Judge Peter Jacobs released Powell on bail to await sentencing, but told him to expect to be jailed.

Mr Gullick's daughter Annabelle Davies, 53, said after the verdict: "I used to visit him after the assault and Dad would be pale and still scared of Powell. He would tell me: 'He's coming to get me, he's coming to get me.' I'm frightened."

Navy lists 31 changes after pupil drowns

By Helen Johnstone

THE Royal Navy made 31 recommendations to improve safety after a public school sixthformer drowned unnoticed under a liferaft during a sea-survival exercise supervised by navy specialists.

Seventy per cent of the proposals to deal with deficiencies uncovered by the Navy after the incident at Charterhouse School have already been implemented, an inquest into the death of Nicholas Stafford, 18, was told yesterday.

After a verdict of accidental death was recorded, his parents, Colin and Evelyn Stafford, who had earlier criticised safety standards, said they were satisfied future adventure exercises would be safer.

Commander Rodney Steel of *HMS Sultan*, where the two instructors were based, told the hearing at Guildford, Surrey, that youth training had been suspended and two Navy boards of inquiry set up.

"The first dealt with the administrative side of the programme and the second specifically looked at the accident itself," Commander Steel said. "Twenty recommendations came from the first inquiry and a further 11 from the second. To date, 70 per cent of these have been implemented."

Nevertheless, the Coroner, Michael Burgess, intends to express concern to the Admiralty's Second Sea Lord after hearing that Nicholas lay trapped for up to 15 minutes before his foot was seen protruding from under the liferaft.

Mr Stafford, who said that he had no wish to see adventure training curtailed, said: "Obviously we are totally devastated by the loss of Nicholas. Had all these safety procedures been in force on January 26, he would be alive today. The objective of the inquest was to make sure that it could not happen again to another student and family. We are satisfied it will not."

The Navy has sent its recommendations to the Health and Safety Executive.

Farmers protest at T-bone court case

By Paul Wilkinson

A PUB restaurateur appeared before magistrates yesterday, accused of selling T-bone steak in breach of regulations intended to prevent the transmission of "mad cow" disease to human beings.

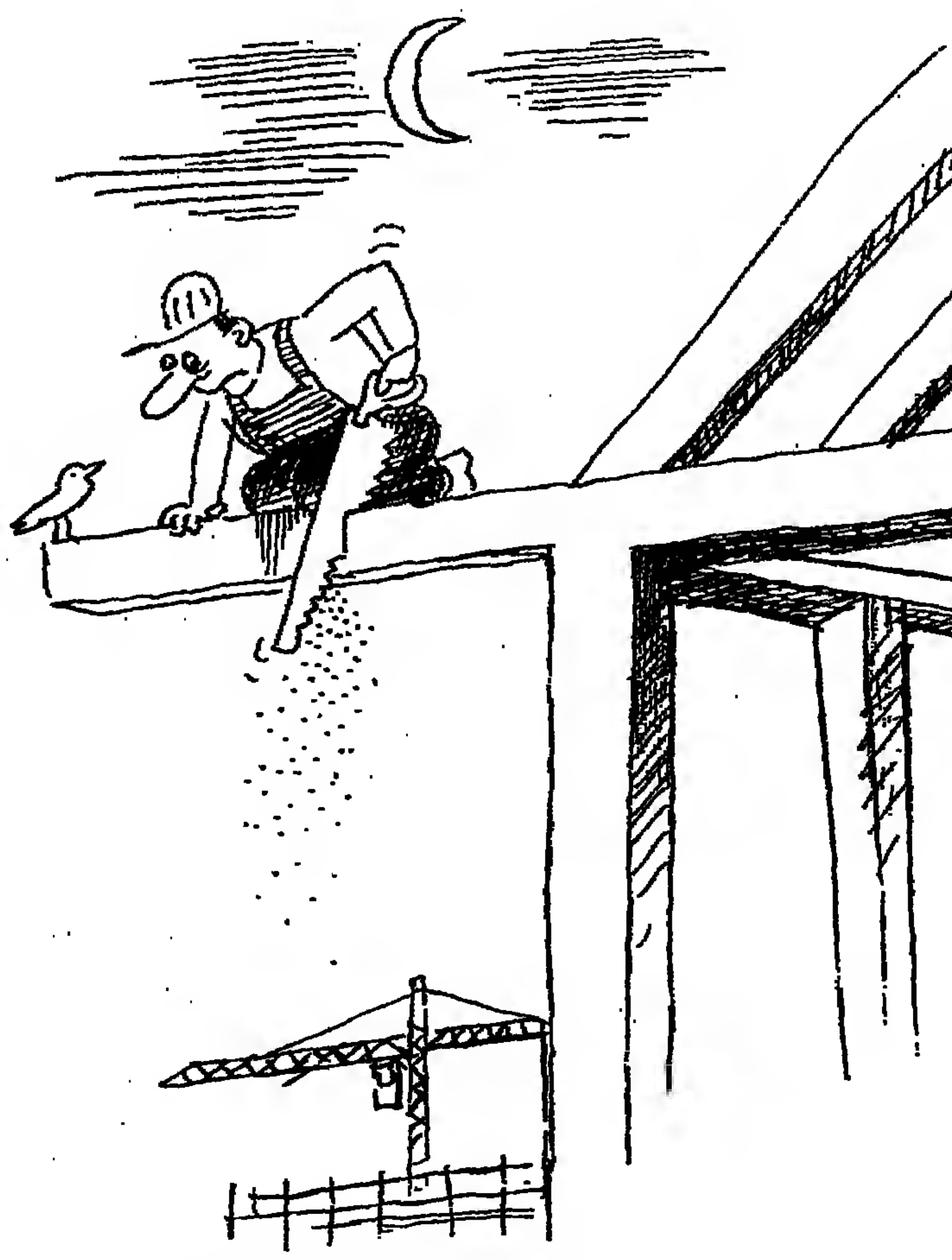
As Christopher Bowman, of the Drovers Inn at Bishop Thornton, near Harrogate, North Yorkshire, appeared in court, almost 100 farmers demonstrated outside. Some set up a barbecue at the court steps in Harrogate, where they cooked their own T-bone steaks. Others drove tractors and Land Rovers through the town.

Bill Atkinson, a hill farmer from Addingham, West Yorkshire, said: "I'm secretary of the Wharfedale Farmers' Auction, so I'm delighted to see such a good turnout. There is intense feeling not only among farmers but also the general public about the way the industry has been treated. Livestock farming is at a terrible low."

Mr Atkinson said that he sold sheep for £90 last year, but they brought less than £60 today. "Ten years ago, before BSE, a bullock would fetch £1,200. Two weeks ago I saw one go for £780."

Mr Bowman, who denies the charge, was bailed to appear again before magistrates in two weeks. The prosecution is being brought by North Yorkshire County Council trading standards department.

dti
Department of Trade and Industry



Nobody profits from working too many hours.

Everybody knows a motivated and alert workforce produces the best work. When people work too many hours accidents happen, mistakes are made and nobody profits. October 1st sees the introduction of the new Working Time Regulations designed to help businesses be more productive. The Regulations represent fair minimum standards, while allowing flexibility for workers and employers to make arrangements which suit them. For further information about how these Regulations may affect you, call the Workright information line on (local rate) 0845 6000 925. Alternatively visit our website at http://www.dti.gov.uk/workright. Similar but separate rules will apply in Northern Ireland.

WORK*RIGHT*
0845 6000 925

Images of naked obsession

JAMES BONE'S NEW YORK

New York's 144 strip clubs, porn shops and peep shows are slowly being closed or forced to move to isolated industrial areas as the local authorities crack down on traditional red-light zones.

But the "city that never sleeps" is not about to lose its reputation as a latter-day Sodom and Gomorrah. Even as go-go girls don bikinis to meet the new regulations, X-rated material is flourishing in another unlikely venue: the New York art world.

Nothing, it seems, sells art like sex. Artists have always been obsessed with the nude, of course, but photography gives them the opportunity to be more explicit than Botticelli ever was. Since the late Robert Mapplethorpe's homo-erotic nudes caused a furore in the Eighties and Jeff Koons photographed himself with his porn-star wife Cicciolina earlier this decade, the pictures on the gallery walls have been getting more and more explicit.

In recent months, reputable New York galleries have been pushing at the limits of taste with controversial depictions of sex, ranging from bestiality to bondage and beyond.

The Paula Cooper Gallery in Chelsea, for example, has been representing Andres Serrano's photographic series *A History of Sex*. The artist became a national figure in 1987 when he dipped a plastic crucifix in a beaker of his own urine and photographed it as the infamous *Piss Christ*.

His latest work, some of which was shown this summer in London, includes one image of a woman urinating in a man's mouth and another of a woman (apparently a banker) fondling a stallion's erection. Thanks in part to the controversy, his photographs sell for about $10,000 (£6,000) apiece.

The Jack Tilton Gallery in SoHo, in the meantime, staged the *Self Portrait Porno Show* in which professional porn stars performed rollicking sex. The piece was presented by Gloria Heilman, otherwise known as Heilman-C, who publicised it with half-naked advertisements in the press. Unfortunately for the artist, the work attracted as much attention from the "dirty-mac" brigade as it did from serious art critics.

The controversy reaches a crescendo this weekend when two new shows exploring aspects of sex open in New York. *Eros Electronica* at Matthew Sandager is devoted to video art and contains one minute of edited footage from the Kinsey Institute of animals copulating. Generating the most buzz, however, is the American Fine Arts Gallery's exhibition of much-litigated nude photographs of Brooke Shields, the film star, aged ten.

Garry Gross, the photographer, hired the pre-pubescent Shields though a modelling agency in 1975 to pose naked in a bathtub for $450. "The original concept was one that I had many years ago as a result of living with a woman and her little daughter, that there is an emerging woman in these little girls," Mr Gross said.

"I decided to do a book of them in all their innocence and then as I thought they would be eight to ten years later. The concept was 'the woman in the child'."

The carefully posed pictures are reported to have prompted Louis Malle to cast the budding actress as a child prostitute in his 1978 film, *Pretty Baby*.

When Mr Gross tried to sell the photographs in 1981, however, Miss Shields sued and gave evidence through tears that the pictures embarrassed her. Protected by a release form that gave him complete control of the images, Gross won the case after a three-year battle that ended in New York's highest court.

"Some people consider them pornographic," the photographer said. "That's the way life is. Others consider them art. I like them very much ... Will they titillate? It's in the eyes of the beholder. They do not need my $3,000 picture to be titillated. They can go to any video store and get *Pretty Baby*."

With her husband, André Agassi, in town for the US Tennis Open, there is speculation that Miss Shields might even drop by the show. But Gross doubts that.

"I do not expect her to," he said. "I would like her to, if she came with an open heart. I like her a lot. I was watching tennis the other day.

"I still root for Agassi. I was hoping he was going to win."

THE KOBAL COLLECTION

Brooke Shields in *Pretty Baby*. Nude pictures of her aged ten feature in an exhibition opening this weekend

Kelsey Grammer and David Hyde Pierce are said to be preparing to move from sitcom to Broadway

Broadway Art grabs a slice of sitcom life

THE Broadway production of Yasmina Reza's play *Art* may be getting a cast of sitcom stars. Kelsey Grammer, John Mahoney and David Hyde Pierce of *Frasier* are said to be in talks to take over as the three old friends who argue over a plain white canvas that is meant to be "art". The West End production already has its own US television actor in George Wendt of *Cheers*.

☐ Gareth Branwyn's Jargon Watch in *Wired* magazine offers the following new entries: "Perma-lancer", a permanent freelancer; "Ohnosecond", the fraction of time in which you realise you've made a big mistake; and "Sitcoms", single income, two children, oppressive mortgage.

☐ With the stock market bouncing around worse than a New York subway car, the "status gadget" of choice is no longer the mobile phone but the Quotrek machine. This hand-held device allows owners to follow the progress of their share portfolio wherever they go. It is popular not just with Wall Street professionals but also with taxi and delivery drivers who supplement their incomes by "day trading". One Quotrek-toting postman claims to have doubled his portfolio by calling in share deals from public telephones. He bought himself a new Jeep.

Doubtful 'Deep Throat'

IT IS hard to believe these days that there was once a time of such innocence that pundits could speak of "Deep Throat" in the White House without giggling. Ever since Watergate, the identity of Bob Woodward's and Carl Bernstein's source about President Nixon's activities has remained a secret.

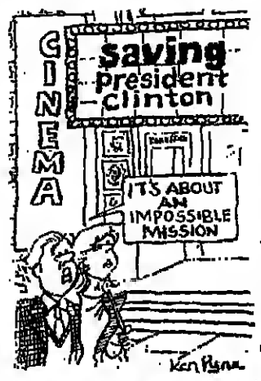
All that the pair of investigative journalists will say is that "Deep Throat" is a man and that he is still alive. Further disclosure will have to await his death.

Now the duo's former literary agent is questioning the conventional wisdom, and suggesting that "Deep Throat" might be nothing more than a journalistic device — a composite character. In a new book, David Obst says that the mysterious source did not appear in the journalists' original proposal for *All the President's Men*, but then turned up in the first draft.

☐ Mike Myers's portrayal of Steve Rubell in the newly released *Studio 54*, due out in Britain in December, has disappointed not just the critics but also the family of the late club kid.

The gregarious Rubell is considered the inspiration behind the legendary "Studio 54", which he founded with Ian Schrager, a former property lawyer, in the Seventies before they both went to jail for tax evasion.

"We are sorry that an opportunity to share Steve's complex and incredible character with the world has been wasted," the family said.



Lennon's last cover unsold

A MORBID memento of John Lennon put up for sale on the Internet has failed to fetch its $1.8 million (£1.1 million) asking price. Gary Zimet, the New York dealer, is trying to sell the *Double Fantasy* album cover that Lennon signed for his murderer moments before he was shot.

The cover comes complete with fingerprints of the killer, Mark David Chapman — enhanced by forensic science — as well as letters from the prosecutor who handled the case. The seller is an anonymous New York lawyer — and lifelong Beatles fan — who found the cover outside the Dakota block of flats on the Upper West Side after Lennon's murder in 1980.

"It's still available for sale," Mr Zimet says. "We have had some offers in the $500,000 to $1 million range. Frankly, I'm surprised not more people have come out of the woodwork with offers.

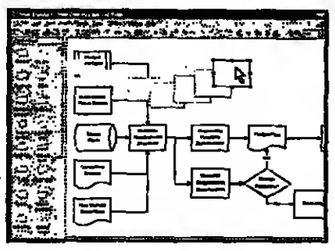
Chapman: cover comes with his fingerprints

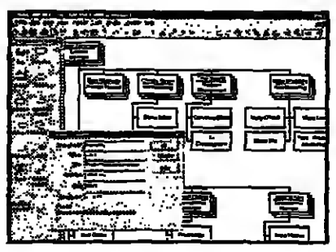
VISIO Visualize your business™

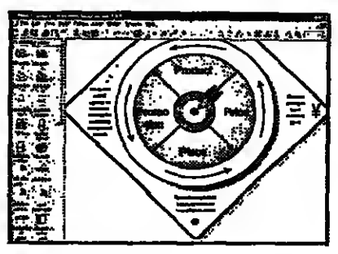
SAVE A THOUSAND WORDS

Visuals help you communicate complex ideas more clearly and accurately than you can with mere words.

Visio® Standard 5.0 offers dynamic business graphics







including flowcharts, org charts, marketing and sales diagrams,

and features over 1,300 pre-drawn shapes called SmartShapes™ symbols. So, say you have a proposal or presentation due this week. With Visio Standard 5.0 you can illustrate your strategy with an easy-to-understand diagram, further explain the process with a flowchart, and get your staffing approved with an organisation chart. Basically, anything you could say with words, you can show with Visio. And Visio makes it easy to create polished diagrams; just assemble the diagram using the provided task-specific shapes. Even cut and paste your Visio diagrams into a Microsoft Word document, or put them into a PowerPoint presentation, and you're ready to go. With a 60-day money-back guarantee, you have nothing to lose. Well, except for a few thousand words. Visit your reseller today and pick up a copy of Visio Standard 5.0 or call 0800 834 859 ext 5152.

Action Computer Supplies Microwarehouse PC World Software Warehouse

www.visio.com/ukvs

RISK FREE 60 DAY MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE

©1998 Visio Corporation. All rights reserved. Visio, the Visio logo, the Visualize your business logo, and SmartShapes are either trademarks or registered trademarks of Visio Corporation in the United States and/or other countries. All other trademarks, trade names or company names referenced herein are used for identification only and are the property of their respective owners.

SEAFRANCE
DOVER-CALAIS FERRIES

FRANCE FROM ONLY £25 CAR + 4 PEOPLE RTN

Going to France? Whether you're planning a day trip to go shopping or a short break, SeaFrance guarantees you the lowest fares across the channel. Take a car and four passengers to France for just £25 day return.* Or enjoy a longer stay at £44 for a 3 day return for a car and five passengers.** Other special fares are available including early booking fares for 1999. For the lowest fares from Dover to Calais call SeaFrance on

0990 711 711

All tickets are non-refundable. *Book and travel by 30th November '98. A £5 Saturday supplement applies. **Book and travel by 31st December '98. A £10 Saturday supplement applies.

Visit our website at www.seafrance.com

هكذا من الأصل

Primakov wins Duma's vote

MIKHAIL JAPARIDZE / AP

Yevgeni Primakov, the new Russian Prime Minister, in Moscow yesterday. He said politicians from across the political spectrum were welcome in his Cabinet

Parliament has agreed a new Prime Minister, writes **Richard Beeston**

YEVGENI PRIMAKOV was voted in yesterday as Russia's new Prime Minister after the country's leaders put aside their ideological differences and provided a rare show of unity for the proposed new Government.

The Duma, the lower house of parliament, whose opposition to President Yeltsin's first candidate caused a damaging three-week deadlock, voted overwhelmingly in support of the former spy chief, who received unusual applause and the backing of 315 deputies, with only 63 votes against. Looking unflappable, despite the customary heckling from some Duma members, Mr Primakov set out his policy objectives: to restore life to the paralysed Government and to halt the country's economic disintegration.

"I'll tell you in advance," said the former Politburo member, who is regarded more as an able technocrat than a politicial figure, "I am no magician."

He said politicians from across the political spectrum were welcome in his Cabinet as long as they worked as a team and left their party-political allegiances behind. However, he raised fears that Communists could have undue influence on government policy by appointing two veteran Communists to senior posts and making clear that none of the young reformers was likely to win a Cabinet seat.

Yuri Malsyukov, a former Industry Minister, was named as the Deputy Prime Minister responsible for economic policy, a move analysts fear could lead to hyperinflation. The other Soviet-era figure is Viktor Geraschenko, who was appointed Chairman of the Central Bank, a post he last held in October 1994 during the last rouble collapse.

Nevertheless, Mr Primakov clearly wanted to send a message to the West when he promised that his future Government would not try to turn the clock back to Soviet-era methods.

"Reforms are necessary. The present situation cannot be overcome without them," he said. However, he added: "The Government should intervene in the economic affairs and regulate them. This is not a return to the administrative and command system."

> ❛ Reforms are necessary. The current situation cannot be overcome without them ❜

Drawing on his experience as a Foreign Minister and spy chief, he said that he would model his Government's policies on the New Deal launched by Franklin D. Roosevelt in the 1930s. To pull America out of the depression he created jobs, established banking insurance and set up the framework for modern regulation of the economy.

Anticipating that his candidate would win, Mr Yeltsin made a televised address to the nation promising that the new Government would work hard to bring prices down, return food to supermarket shelves, restore the collapsed banking sector and provide guarantees for savers.

"Russia was standing on the threshold of a serious political crisis, but it has been possible to avert it," Mr Yeltsin said. "The political leaders of the country have proved that they are able to compromise at a decisive moment."

Mr Primakov, 68, was short on the specifics of how he intended to turn the country's fortunes around after a month of political and economic turmoil. He said his first priority was to check the threat posed to the unity of the Russian Federation, 89 regions and republics that have grown increasingly independent of Moscow during the latest crisis.

"The Government that will be formed should pay special attention to the unity of Russia," he said. "We are facing a serious danger — a serious danger of our country fragmenting."

Mr Primakov certainly seemed under no illusion that the task facing him will be easy. While struggling to keep Russia united during the harsh winter ahead and tackling the monumental economic difficulties, there is also the problem of Mr Yeltsin's future as Russian head of state.

In the background, powerful figures are manoeuvring for position around the Kremlin, where Mr Yeltsin's hold on power is weaker than at any time since he took control of Russia seven years ago.

Although the rouble has stabilised, another currency crisis could break out at any moment, given the frail condition of the banking sector and the total loss of Western confidence in Russia's financial system.

If that happens, Mr Primakov will be lucky to get the six-month honeymoon he has asked for.

Russian sailor threatens to blow up atomic submarine

By Richard Beeston

A RUSSIAN conscript sailor yesterday threatened to blow up a nuclear-powered submarine at a base in the far North after he killed eight crew members and barricaded himself inside the vessel's magazine.

In one of the most disturbing cases in a series of recent instances of Russian soldiers running amok, Aleksandr Kzminykh, a teenage sailor, was surrounded by a special commando unit from the Federal Security Service (FSB). However, hours into the siege, and despite an appeal by his parents, the sailor had refused to give himself up and was threatening to use the explosives in the boat's magazine to blow up the submarine.

The Akula class nuclear attack submarine is one of the most sophisticated in the Russian fleet. Although it does not carry nuclear weapons, it is equipped with powerful conventional torpedoes, which if detonated could damage the nuclear reactor on board. The Ministry of Defence in Moscow said that Admiral Vladimir Kuroyedov, the head of the navy, had gone to the submarine, moored at Skalisty, near the northern fleet headquarters at Severomorsk on the Kola peninsula, to take charge of the matter.

The sailor, who comes from a distinguished military family from St Petersburg, reportedly attacked a sentry and took his automatic rifle. He then went into the sailors' quarters and shot dead five fellow crew members in their sleep. He took two others hostage and later killed them.

It was not clear what triggered the attack, although in scores of other cases over the past few years the brutal treatment of conscripts and the appalling conditions of life in the Russian military have caused young servicemen to turn violent.

Only last week the Northern Fleet, the pride of the Russian Navy, suffered another incident in which five sailors mutinied at a nuclear installation in the Arctic, killing a guard and taking 48 hostages before they were overpowered.

This latest incident is particularly alarming because it occurred on a nuclear submarine, supposedly one of the most secure sectors of Russia's huge — but crumbling — military. Only last week General Aleksandr Lebed, the former paratroop commander who heads the Kransoyarsk region in Siberia, gave a warning that the armed forces, who have not been paid in months, were ready to revolt.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Israel alert as troops kill Hamas brothers

Jerusalem: Israeli security forces sealed off the Palestinian territories and went on high alert yesterday after shooting dead two Arab brothers who led a military cell of Hamas blamed for suicide bombings last year in Israel that killed 21 people (Ross Dunn writes).

Dr Mahmoud Zahar, a leader of the militant Islamic organisation, said Hamas would avenge the deaths of Imad and Adel Awadallah, the two most wanted terrorists in Israel. "This proves that Israel continues to attack Hamas, and Hamas hurts those who hurt it," he said. Israel imposed a military closure on the West Bank and Gaza Strip and said both men were armed when they were killed during clashes in the West Bank town of Hebron.

Terrorist suspects deported

Dar es Salaam: Tanzania expelled five Iraqis and a Libyan who were questioned by the FBI in connection with the bombing of the United States embassies here and in Nairobi last month, it was reported. Immigration officials escorted the Libyan, Arif Issa Enhamed, to the airport and put him on a flight to an undisclosed Middle East destination, said *Uhuru*, a Swahili newspaper owned by the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi party. *(AP)*

Sri Lanka bomb kills 12

Colombo: Tamil Tiger rebels detonated a bomb in the north Sri Lankan town of Jaffna, killing 12 people including the Mayor and an army commander, the Defence Ministry said. "There was a blast at the Jaffna municipality office while a meeting was in progress where a number of senior military and police officials were present," Brigadier Sunil Ennakoon, a military spokesman said. A police superintendent was also killed, he said. *(Reuters)*

Fugitive attempts suicide

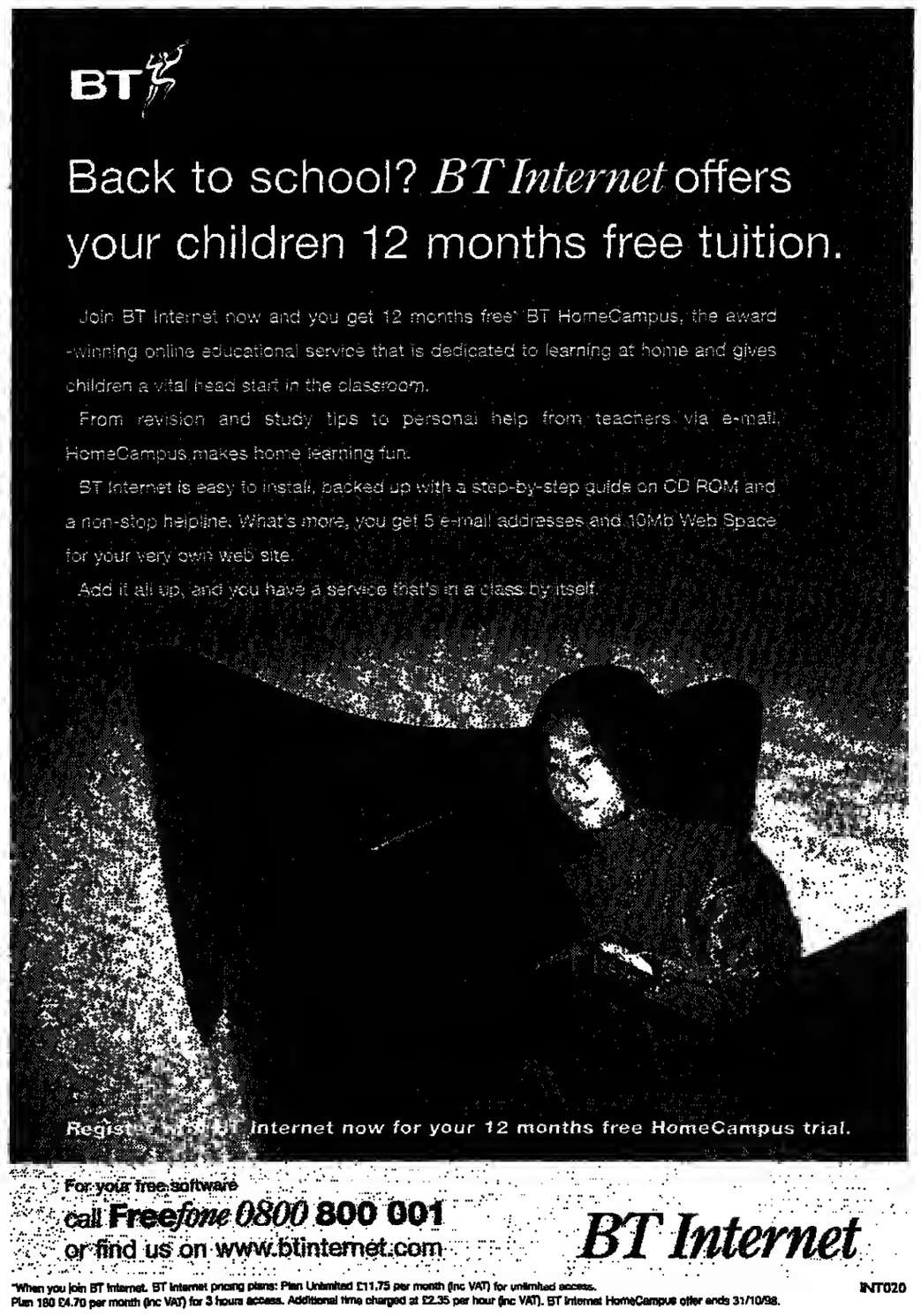
Nice: Licio Gelli, right, one of Italy's most wanted fugitives, attempted suicide in a French prison hospital after suffering a heart attack, French police said. Gelli tried to cut his wrists with glass from his spectacles. The former grandmaster of the P2 masonic lodge, Gelli escaped from Italian justice four months earlier. He was given a 12-year sentence for fraud linked to the 1982 collapse of the Banco Ambrosiano. *(Reuter)*

George Wallace critically ill

Montgomery: George Wallace, 79, the former Governor of Alabama, was in a critical condition in Jackson hospital's intensive care unit, suffering from his third respiratory infection this summer. He was said to have an overwhelming bacterial blood infection. Mr Wallace is partially paralysed after an assassination attempt in 1972 while he was seeking the Democratic presidential nomination. He suffers from Parkinson's disease and is deaf. *(Reuters)*

Swissair jet in near-miss

Zurich: A Swissair plane with 151 people aboard heading to New York from Geneva narrowly missed a KLM jumbo jet about 34,000ft over Ireland. A collision was avoided by electronic warning devices, said Erwin Schaerer, a Swissair spokesman. He said the Swissair plane descended and the KLM aircraft climbed. There were no injuries. The Swiss plane, an MD11, was the same type as the one that crashed off Nova Scotia last week, killing all 229 on board. *(AP)*



THE KOBAL COLLECTION

The Garden of the Finzi-Continis became a film in 1971

Battle over writer's soul

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

A LEGAL tussle is coming to a head over the fate of Giorgio Bassani, Italy's foremost living writer, who is alleged to be suffering from senile dementia. The author of *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis* has become the subject of a tug-of-war between his wife and mistress, both of whom claim they should care for him and protect his legacy.

Signor Bassani, 82, is best known for his great elegaic novel, set in the doomed world of a well-to-do aristocratic Jewish family in Ferrara during the Fascist period. Published in 1962 to critical acclaim, *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis* was made into a film in 1971. Signor Bassani's collected works are about to be published in Italy, a sign that he is considered a "modern classic".

According to his family, however, Signor Bassani's memory has failed, and he has become almost totally dependent on others. Signor Bassani separated from his wife, Valeria Sinigallia, 40 years ago, and for more than 20 years has lived in a flat in Rome with Portia Prebys, an American professor of literature.

Signora Sinigallia maintains that she and their two children, Paola and Enrico, are better qualified to look after the great writer. She accuses Professor Prebys of "manipulating" Signor Bassani, and in particular of recently engineering the sale of the House of the Magnolias, the house in Ferrara where Signor Bassani lived as a young man during the Second World War and which formed the backdrop for *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis*. Although separated from Signora Sinigallia since 1958, Signor Bassani has continued to provide for her financially.

But Signora Sinigallia alleges that much of his wealth, royalties and art collection have been "frittered away". Last year, after a lengthy campaign, she obtained a court ruling that the writer was "partially incapable" of dealing with his own financial affairs. The family are now having psychiatric tests conducted in an attempt to prove that he is incapable of understanding what is said to him and has "no will of his own."

If the Rome judges accept this, Signor Bassani will be prohibited from signing cheques, making decisions over property, drawing on his royalties, making a new will or initiating divorce proceedings. Professor Prebys has engaged a rival psychiatrist to prove that Signor Bassani is "perfectly sane". The case comes to court in October.

Friends who recall the dapper, pipe-smoking author as the habitué of Rome's most fashionable cafés and tennis clubs find it hard to believe he is senile or insane.

In Bassani's novel, the Finzi-Continis — a hitherto prominent Ferrara family — react to racial laws introduced by Mussolini by inviting fellow Jews banned from the Ferrara tennis club to use their garden instead. The walled garden forms the setting for the unnamed narrator's infatuation with the Finzi-Continis beautiful daughter, Micol.

The novel's powerful evocation of memories of a lost domain before the family "disappears" forever in 1943 has been compared with the work of Marcel Proust.

Germany's cartoonists get measure of 'The Pear' with satire, writes **Roger Boyes** in Bonn

ARMIN GEHRET

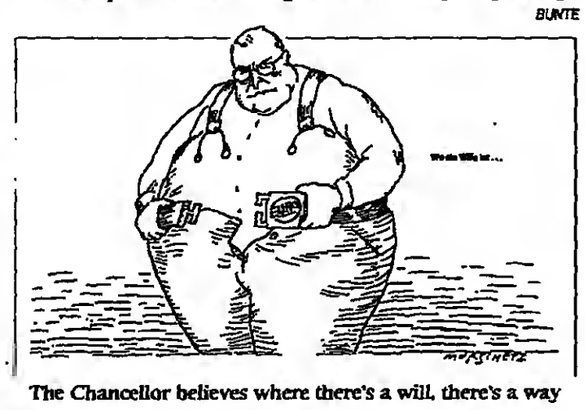
Kohl adapts to reductions in government transport spending

BUNTE

DIE ZEIT

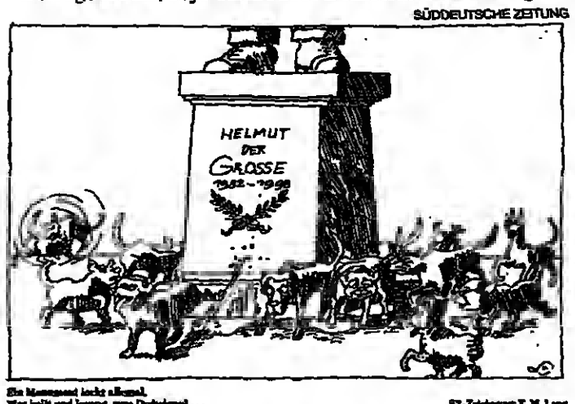
'Don't go too far, boys' Kohl's Free Democrat allies are urged

BUNTE



The Chancellor believes where there's a will, there's a way

SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG



Enemies and rivals show their feelings about his legacy

Kohl cut down to size

THE slogan "*Kohl muss weg!*" — Kohl has to go — has become the rallying call of the opposition in the German election campaign. But it is also the view of the Chancellor's younger Christian Democratic backbenchers who are beginning to plot their party's future without the man who has led them for the past 16 years.

About 53 per cent of Germans have yet to make up their mind with only a fortnight until the election, but the cartoonists and caricaturists have already made their call; they are betting heavily against the Chancellor. Helmut Kohl was always a figure of fun. His expanding girth, his provincialism was mocked even before he became Chancellor in 1982. Soon after he became German leader he was dubbed *Birne* — The Pear. That referred not only to his physique, but also conveyed the feeling that he was big, soft and empty.

Herr Kohl turned this mockery on its head. As he squashed rivals, won elections and the trust of statesmen, so "the Pear" became an affectionate term.

Cartoonists, however, are ruthless and they sensed, as early as three years ago, that Herr Kohl was no longer a lovable old fruit. Suddenly he was represented as arrogant lonely and helpless. His wish to carry on for another four-year term was interpreted by sharp-penned cartoonists as a form of hubris. Slowly, the Germans have come to share this view.

Somewhere in this progression Herr Kohl lost his own sense of humour. When one cartoonist drew his scantily-clad wife draped over a car, Herr Kohl took the magazine to court and all issues were pulped. The public barely raised a squeak of protest but the cartoonists took note. Herr Kohl had become vulnerable.

VW creates £7m fund to compensate Nazi slaves

FROM REUTERS IN BONN

VOLKSWAGEN, the German carmaker founded under Hitler's Nazi regime, announced yesterday that it was launching a 20 million mark (£7 million) fund to compensate its Second World War slave labourers.

The company, Europe's biggest carmaker, which relies on exports for more than half of its business, announced plans to create the fund in July for elderly survivors, many of whom live in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The move came in the face of increasing pressure on German industry from Holocaust survivors and former slave labourers to redress injustice incurred during the Nazi era.

Klaus Kocks, a Volkswagen spokesman, said the company had not been legally obliged to provide restitution, because Germany had already paid extensive postwar reparations — more than 100 billion marks to date. But the "private relief fund" was a gesture in recognition of the company's shared moral responsibility.

Historians say VW, founded in 1938 to build the "Volkswagen" or People's Car, bought the labour of about 7,000 slaves from the SS between 1941 and 1945. Their work included building mines. Less than 1,000 are believed to survive.

Klaus von Münchhausen, a German academic who represents about 150 Jews who were forced to work for VW, welcomed the fund as "start-up capital", but said that the key issue was how much each individual would receive.

THE EDINBURGH RESIDENCE

SETTLE IN AT THE EDINBURGH RESIDENCE

(And enter a different world)

JUST LIKE THE CITY ITSELF, The Edinburgh Residence is a unique place to stay. Beautiful, timeless and somewhere we want to return, year after year.

In this exquisite mansion, we can unwind in the most luxurious surroundings, and really feel at home. We like to travel, but hotels can start to look the same – so a time ownership suite here was ideal for us.

There are only 29 suites, and each one has an individual atmosphere, with personal touches such as fresh flowers, original art and period style furniture. Ours has the most wonderful bathroom. The staff are superb, too. Always there when you need them, but never in the way. It's actually very hard to leave! But as we can divide our purchase into two separate breaks there's always another visit to look forward to!

To reserve a suite and arrange a personal tour of The Edinburgh Residence, or for more information, please return the coupon below or call 0131 226 3380.

ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE YOURSELF...

Discover The Edinburgh Residence for only £165 for two people for 2 nights.

This price includes a full Scottish breakfast each day and a personal tour of The Edinburgh Residence. If you prefer to fly to Edinburgh, we can offer two air tickets for £180 including pick up from the airport.

THE Edinburgh RESIDENCE
SEEING IS BELIEVING

0131 226 3380

I would like more information about The Edinburgh Residence — 2 night visit and tour ☐ — Rental details ☐

Surname ____ Title ____ First Name ____

Address ____

Postcode ____

Telephone Day ____ Eve ____

Please return to: The Edinburgh Residence, 7 Rothesay Terrace, Edinburgh EH3 7RY — TB1

Full written information is available from the above address.

THOMAS COOK FULLY ESCORTED TOURS

CANADA

NO one offers you a better deal to Canada than Thomas Cook Holidays. Not only are our prices competitive, *but we're the only operator to offer fully escorted tours that start at your own front door.* After all, we want you to be as comfortable and relaxed as possible. That way, you'll get even more from our 11 inspiring itineraries, each offering first class travel through some of the world's most breathtaking scenery.

Our Tour Managers are the best in the business, and our transport and accommodation facilities second to none. So, to get the very best from your visit to Canada, go with the company who gives you more. Call us now for a brochure on 0800 88 12 12 – or visit your local Thomas Cook Shop.

THE SAINT LAWRENTIAN
14 days exploring the charms of Eastern Canada
Tour highlights • 2 nights in Montreal including tour of old city • Scenic route alongside the St. Lawrence Seaway to fabulous Quebec City • Travel into that great Quebecois playground, the Laurentians • Visit Ottawa with the famous parliament buildings and picturesque Rideau Canal. Through untamed Ontario beauty to 3 nights in lively Toronto. *Optional extras* • Whale watching – *plus comprehensive optional tour programme bookable locally.*
FROM £935

THE ROCKIES AND THE PACIFIC
14 days in Canada's golden West
Tour highlights • 3 days in chic Vancouver • On to old world Victoria • Relax on the lakeside beaches of Kelowna • Encounter the mighty Rockies • 2 nights in Jasper with a visit to the National Park • Stop at beautiful Lake Louise • 3 nights in idyllic, small town Banff. *Optional extras* • Toronto Stopover • Alaska Cruise • Rocky Mountaineer – *plus comprehensive optional tour programme bookable locally.*
FROM £1045

THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEER
11 days of breathtaking scenery
Tour Highlights • 3 nights in idyllic Banff • Stop at beautiful Lake Louise • On to the Rockies resort of Jasper • Join the Rocky Mountaineer • Travel through majestic icefields and snowy mountains • Overnight in Kamloops • 3 nights in chic Vancouver. *Optional extras* • Victoria including Butchart Gardens • Toronto Stopover • Alaska Cruise – *plus comprehensive optional tour programme bookable locally.*
FROM £1175

EAST COAST SPLENDOURS	FROM £1095	THE PACIFIC DISCOVERY	FROM £1475
THE WESTERN EXPLORER	FROM £1135	THE NEW WORLD	FROM £1695
THE CANADIAN PIONEER	FROM £1245	THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN RANGER	FROM £1695
THE TRANS CANADIAN	FROM £1395	MAJESTIC ROCKIES AND ALASKA CRUISE	FROM £1945

If you would like a copy of the 1999 Thomas Cook Holidays Cook's Tours of Canada brochure, please complete this coupon and send it in an envelope to: Thomas Cook Canada, FREEPOST (PE1095), P.O. Box 300, Peterborough, PE1 5BR. You don't need a stamp.

Name ____
Address ____
Postcode ____
Telephone (inc. STD code) ____ AT111209

EXCLUSIVE
We'll pick you up at your own front door, and chauffeur you to lastfirow in one of our executive courtesy vehicles. Here you will be greeted by our helpful representatives.

FREE VIP LOUNGE AT HEATHROW
We are the only operator to offer free hospitality at the airport, with an exclusive VIP lounge – well away from the hubub of the general departure area.

NO INSURANCE SURCHARGE FOR THE OVER 65s
We'd rather you had more to spend on having a fantastic time.

FREE 24 HOUR BROCHURE REQUEST LINE
0800 881212
YOU CAN ALSO USE THIS NUMBER TO BOOK YOUR TRIP. ALTERNATIVELY, VISIT YOUR LOCAL THOMAS COOK SHOP

Terms and Conditions Prices are per person and based on 2 adults sharing a twin room and include applicable discounts. All holidays are subject to availability at the time of booking. Major credit cards accepted. A handling charge of £5 applies to all bookings by credit/charge card, up to a maximum of £20 per transaction.

Thomas Cook

The Thomas Cook Group Limited, ABTA V6434, ATOL 1355

هكذا من الأصل

THE FALL OF CLINTON

REUTERS

Bill Clinton's presidency, which began with high hopes on a January day in 1993, now seems over in all but name

Man from Hope runs out of luck

BILL CLINTON is among the most gifted politicians of his age, a man who aspired to the presidency from his youth and might have been one of the most distinguished occupants of the Oval Office had it not been for his human flaws.

He rose from the humblest of backgrounds in rural Arkansas, became a Rhodes scholar, the nation's youngest Governor and the youngest President ever to win two terms before his weakness for women and instinctive mendacity caught up with him.

Mr Clinton may or may not survive in office, but a presidency that began with such high hopes on a crisp January day in 1993 is now over in all but name. He will be remembered not for any great achievement, but for the sex scandals and related cover-ups with which he besmirched the highest office in the land.

He has been called "The Man from Hope" and the "Comeback Kid", but "Slick Willie", as his detractors used to call him back in Arkansas, now seems the most appropriate of all the sobriquets.

Mr Clinton was born in Hope, Arkansas, 52 years ago, just three months after his salesman father was killed when his car skidded off the road at 11 pm as he was driving home from Chicago.

He was raised initially by his grandparents while his widowed mother, Virginia, trained as a nurse in New Orleans. His grandfather ran a shop in the poor black part of Hope, but "in that country store he taught me more about equality in the eyes of the Lord than all my professors at Georgetown, more about the intrinsic worth of every individual than all the philosophers at Oxford, more about the need for equal justice under the law than all the jurists at Yale," he said decades later.

Martin Fletcher, Washington bureau chief of *The Times* from 1989 to 1996, maps out the path of Bill Clinton to despair

When he was four the family moved an hour up the road to the resort-and-racing town of Hot Springs. His home life was no longer impoverished, but it was traumatic. His stepfather was an alcoholic who his mother divorced and later remarried out of pity. But he thrived at school, and in 1963 won the first of a lifetime of elections when he was chosen to visit Washington as one of the most promising young men in Arkansas. There he shook hands with President Kennedy in the Rose Garden — an event that fired his nascent political ambitions. Thirty years later a grainy black-and-white film of that symbolic laying on of hands was played at the Democrats' 1992 convention in New York before they gave Mr Clinton their presidential nomination.

From Hot Springs the future President went to Georgetown University's foreign service school in Washington. He worked part time for William Fulbright, the Arkansas senator who chaired the Foreign Relations Committee, an experience that turned him against the Vietnam War.

In 1968 he won a Rhodes scholarship, and sailed to England for two years at Oxford — the next seminal experience of his life and one that was to cause him serious problems a quarter of a century later when he challenged George Bush for the presidency.

It was there, bearded and long-haired, that he tried marijuana but "didn't inhale". It was from there that he journeyed behind the Iron Curtain. It was there that he took part in anti-war demonstrations outside the US Embassy in London, and reached an arrangement with a friendly Reserve Officer Training Corps commander at the University of Arkansas that enabled him simultaneously to avoid the draft and, in his own words, to maintain his "political viability". It was an arrangement on which he later reneged.

It was at Oxford also that he developed the interest in Northern Ireland, subsequently caused such a rupture between Washington and

Continued on page 22

THEATRES

ADELPHI cc 24hrs (£1 bkg fee) 0171 344 0055 Grps 413 3321/0800 614 903 'KILL FOR A TICKET' M.o.S. WINNER OUTSTANDING MUSICAL Olivier Awards '98 CHICAGO THE MUSICAL RUTHIE HENSHALL NICOLA HUGHES CLARKE PETERS and JOEL GREY Mon-Sat 8, Wed & Sat Mats 3.00 BEST AVAILABILITY FOR SELECTED WEDS MAT PERFS

ALDWYCH 0171 416 6000 cc 0171 957 4001/420 0000(bkg fee) Grps 0171 416 6075/413 3321 WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND 'Andrew Lloyd Webber's terrific new musical with lyrics by rock legend Jim Steinman - a superb and uplifting evening' D.Mail 'This is Lloyd Webber's best show since Phantom' D.Tel Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00 NOW BOOKING TO JUNE 1999 The single 'No Matter What' Specially recorded by Boyzone Now on sale

ALMEIDA AT THE ALBERY 0171 369 1748/344 4444 Racine's PHEDRE in a new version by Ted Hughes Diane Rigg as PHEDRE 20 seats avail each day at Box Office from 10am Mon-Sat Eves 7.30, Sat Mat 3.00

APOLLO, Shaftesbury Ave 24hr cc 0171 494 5070/344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 494 5454 BEN ELTON'S POPCORN Must close on 12th Sept 1998 Laurence Olivier Awards- Best Comedy 1998 Barclays Theatre Awards- Best New Play Mon-Sat 8.00pm Mats Wed 3.00 Sat 4.00pm

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6055 cc24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Grps 416 6075/413 3321 Andrew Lloyd Webber's STARLIGHT EXPRESS THE FASTEST SHOW ON EARTH Evenings 7.45pm Tue & Sat 3pm Tkts from £12.50 NOW BOOKING TO JUNE 1999

ARTS WC2 0171 836 3334 National Youth Theatre present Brian Friel's DANCING AT LUGHNASA Neil Simon's BILOXI BLUES In rep until 19 Sep

BARBICAN INTERNATIONAL THEATRE EVENT BARBICAN THEATRE 0171 638 8891 (bkg fee) Tom, Mon 7.15 PEONY PAVILION Directed by Peter Sellars Tom Peter Sellars In conversation at 6pm Pre-show talk free to ticket holders

BLOOMSBURY THEATRE 0171 388 8822 (school rates avail) National Youth Theatre present OEDIPUS Until 19 Sep (mats 15,18,17)

CAMBRIDGE 494 5080/416 6060/344 4444/420 0000 (+bkg fee) Grps 494 5454 416 6075/413 3321/436 5588 GREASE NOW IN IT'S 6TH SENSATIONAL YEAR! IAN KELSEY as Danny 'A Monster Hit' D. Mirror Mon-Sat 7.30pm Wed & Sat Mat 3pm BOOKING TO THE MILLENNIUM

CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE 01243 781312 RICHARD GRIFFITHS EMILIA FOX in WILLIAM NICHOLSON's new play KATHERINE HOWARD Must end 16 October Hotel/Theatre: 01243 599595

COMEDY 0171 369 1731 cc 0171 344 4444 THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND by Tom Stoppard BLACK COMEDY by Peter Shaffer 'Pure theatrical delight' D.Tel Extended due to popular demand Mon-Sat 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3 LAST 6 WEEKS ENDS 31 OCT

CRITERION 369 1737/344 4444 HILARIOUS 3rd GREAT YEAR THE REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (abridged) Mats Thur at 3pm, Sat at 5pm Sun at 4pm, Eves at 8pm THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (abridged) Tuesday at 8pm

DOMINION 0171 656 1885/0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps (12+) 0171 416 6060 0171 420 0000 BEST NEW MUSICAL OLIVIER AWARDS 1998 Disney's BEAUTY AND THE BEAST 'AN ENCHANTING EVENING- GENUINELY GLORIOUS' D.Tel 'A FEAST OF GOOD FUN!' D.Mail Mon, Wed-Sat 7.30, Tue 6.30, Wed & Sat Mats 2.30 GOOD SEATS AVAILABLE NOW Tickets £18.50 - £35.00

DONMAR WAREHOUSE 0171 369 1732 THE BLUE ROOM adapted from Arthur Schnitzler's La Ronde by David Hare Eves 8pm, Mats Thurs & Sat 3pm Previewing, Opens 22 Sept

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL SS cc (bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 0171 494 5000/344 4444/420 0000 Grps 494 5454/413 3311/436 5588 MISS SAIGON 'THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME' NOW IN ITS 9TH BREATHTAKING YEAR! Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs - apply B.O.

DUCHESS 0171 494 5075 cc 0171 420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 494 5454 BELINDA LANG ALEXANDER HANSON CAROLINE HARKER THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE ALAN AYCKBOURN'S hit comedy 'UNMISSABLE' S.Times Mon-Sat 7.45pm Mats Thu & Sat 3pm

FORTUNE BO & CC 0171 836 2238/312 8033/494 5388 NOW IN ITS 9th HIT YEAR PAUL WEBSTER JAMIE NEWALL Susan Hill's THE WOMAN IN BLACK Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt 'The most thrilling and chilling play for years' D.Mail Mon-Sat 8.00 Mats Tue 3.00 & Sat 4.00 Running time 2 hrs

GARRICK 0171 494 5085/312 1899/494 5388 (no bkg fee) Groups 0171 494 5454 Winner of 19 Major Awards The Royal National Theatre Production WILLIAM GAUNT PHILIP WHITCHURCH MARJORIE YATES JB Priestley's AN INSPECTOR CALLS 'Thrilling...Must be seen' D.Mail 'Two hours enthralling, visually stunning drama' D.Tel Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat 5.00 & 8.15 Mats Wed 2.30

GIELGUD 0171 494 5065/cc 0171 420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 494 5454 FELICITY KENDAL NICKY HENSON JOSIE LAWRENCE ROBERT BATHURST ALARMS & EXCURSIONS MICHAEL FRAYN'S NEW COMEDY Dir by MICHAEL BLAKEMORE Mon-Sat 7.45pm Mats Thur & Sat 3pm Reduced price prevs Opens Mon at 7pm

HAYMARKET 0171 930 8800 JOHN WOOD in The Royal National Theatre Production TOM STOPPARD'S THE INVENTION OF LOVE Directed by Richard Eyre BEST PLAY OF THE YEAR Evening Standard Drama Award Red Price prevs 28 Oct, Opens 3 Nov

HAYMARKET 930 8800/344 4444 Eves 7.45 Mats Thur 3 & Sat 4 THE PETER HALL COMPANY Susannah York Christopher Cazenove Oliver Cotton Geraldine Fitzgerald Richard Todd Barbara Murray OSCAR WILDE'S CLASSIC COMEDY AN IDEAL HUSBAND 'GREAT AND GLORIOUS' S.Tms

HER MAJESTYS 24hr 484 5400 (bkg fee) cc344 4444/420 0000 (fee) Grps 484 5454/413 3311/436 5588 ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Directed by HAROLD PRINCE NOW BKG TO DEC 98 Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 Apply to Box Office daily for returns

LONDON APOLLO Hammersmith BO(no bkg fee) 0870 606 3400 cc(+bkg fee) 420 0000/344 4444 Grps 0171 416 6075 DOCTOR DOLITTLE Starring PHILLIP SCHOFIELD 'THIS IS A SURE-FIRE HIT' ITV 'THIS SUMMER'S UNMISSABLE FAMILY OUTING' Express Book, music & lyrics by Leslie Bricusse Directed by Steven Pimlott Tue-Sat 7.30, Mats Wed, Sat 2.30 Special extra mats Thurs 2.30

LONDON PALLADIUM 0171 494 5030/344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 494 5454/413 3321 SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER 'A SENSATIONAL NIGHT OUT' D.Mirror 'HOT STUFF ANY NIGHT OF THE WEEK' Times 'THE NEXT HUNK' WEST END 'SMASH' GMTV Mon-Sat 7.30 Wed & Sat Mats 2.30 NOW BOOKING TO OCT 1999 SOME SEATS AVAIL FOR WEDS MAT

LYRIC 0171 494 5045 (+fee) cc 344 4444 (+fee) Kate Ashfield Tom Mannion Lloyd Owen Imogen Stubbs CLOSER BY PATRICK MARBER BEST NEW PLAY Laurence Olivier Award 98 BEST COMEDY Evening Standard Award Mon-Sat 7.30, Wed & Sat Mat 3pm

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 0171 452 3000 Grps 0171 452 3010 24hr cc bkg fee 0171 420 0000 OLIVIER Today 2.00 & 7.15, Mon 7.15 Rodgers & Hammerstein's OKLAHOMA! LYTTELTON Today 2.15 & 7.30 CLEO, CAMPING, EMMANUELLE AND DICK a new play by Terry Johnson. Mon 7.30 THE PRIME OF MISS JEAN BRODIE in a newly revised version by Jay Presson Allen adapted from the novel by Muriel Spark

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 cc 24hrs 344 4444 Grps 405 1567/413 3311 THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/ T.S.ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNING MUSICAL CATS Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00 Bars open at 6.45 THEATRE AIR CONDITIONED

OLD VIC 0171 494 5372 (bkg fee) DAVID SUCHET PETER SHAFFER'S AMADEUS Directed by PETER HALL From 14 October - Now Booking

PALACE THEATRE 0171-434 0909 cc 24hrs (bkg fee) 0171-344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 0171-413 3311 THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL LES MISERABLES NOW IN ITS 10TH RECORD BREAKING YEAR Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30 Latecomers not admitted until the interval LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL. DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

PHOENIX BO/CC 0171 369 1733 /344 4444/420 0000 (fee) BEST MUSICAL Olivier/Drama Awards Plays & Players/Ivor Novello Awards WILLY RUSSELL'S BLOOD BROTHERS '...Brings the audience to its feet and roaring its approval' D Mail Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3pm Sat 4pm

PICCADILLY 0171 369 1734 Mon-Sat 7.45. Mats Thur 2.30 Sat 3.00 THE PETER HALL COMPANY MAJOR BARBARA LAST TWO WEEKS Jodi Dench Michael Pennington FILUMENA Opens Wed 30 September KEN CAMPBELL'S COMPANY PIDGIN MACBETH 10 perfs only from Fri 9 Oct

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 5400 First Call 0171 420 0065 cc24hrs 344 4444 Grps (12+) 0171 420 0065 Freephone Grps 0800 614903 'IF YOU ONLY SEE ONE MUSICAL THIS YEAR MAKE IT 'SHOW BOAT'' Int Herald Tribune SHOW BOAT Eves 7.30pm, Mats Thur & Sat 2.30pm 50 Grand Circle Seats sold from 10am Mon-Thur eves only for £10.00 FINAL 2 WEEKS!

PRINCE OF WALES 0171 839 5987 First Call 420 0000 cc 344 4444 GRAMMY AWARD WINNING MUSICAL 'Hot from Broadway. Enough energy to electrify a city.' D.Mail SMOKEY JOE'S CAFÉ THE SONGS OF LEIBER & STOLLER 2nd Smash Hit Year Mon-Thu 8, Fri 5.45 & 8.30 Sat 5 & 8 LAST 4 WEEKS. ENDS 3 OCT

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 5454 0171 420 0065 cc24hrs 344 4444 WEST SIDE STORY From 1st October - Now Booking

QUEENS THEATRE 0171 494 5040 THE LADY BOYS OF BANGKOK 'Splendid costumes that glitter and drip with gold, and spectacular dance routines interlaced with comedy' The Independent Mon/Tue/Thur 8pm Wed/Fri/Sat at 6pm & 8.45 RENT 'IT FIRES THE IMAGINATION. GO CELEBRATE' Time Out RENT Book, music and lyrics by JONATHAN LARSON directed by MICHAEL GREIF 'THE HOTTEST PROPERTY IN TOWN' NOW Mon-Sat 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00

ROUNDHOUSE, Camden 0171 420 0171 THE ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE PRODUCTION OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR 'A wonderful show' Sun Times 'Packs a tremendous punch' D. Mail 'This remarkable show' Guardian LAST SIX WEEKS Tue-Sat 7.45 Wed & Sat 3.00 ALSO SUNDAY MATS AT 3PM

Savoy Theatre 0171 836 8888 cc0171 420 0000/344 4444 'EDWARD FOX'S Macmillan a tour de force' E.Std Hugh Whitemore's A LETTER OF RESIGNATION 'One of the most literate and powerful plays in the West End' Time Out Mon-Sat Evgs 7.45 Mats Wed 3.00, Sats 4.00 MUST END OCT 10

SAVOY THEATRE 0171836 8888 cc 0171 344 4444/420 0000 SHANE RICHIE BOOGIE NIGHTS THE 70's MUSICAL PREVIEWS 16th OCTOBER Mon-Thurs 8.00pm. Fri 5.30 & 8.30 Sats 5.00 & 8.30 SPECIAL ½ PRICE MATINEE FRI 5.30

SAVOY Theatre 0171 836 8888 From CHILDRENS ITV SOOTY AND CO SOOTYS' MAGICAL CHRISTMAS SHOW FROM DECEMBER 15 - JANUARY 9

SHAFTESBURY THEATRE Telephone bookings 07000 21 12 21/ 344 4444 (24hrs + bkg fee) 'THE SENSATIONAL NEW MUSICAL' D.Mail RENT 'IT FIRES THE IMAGINATION. GO CELEBRATE' Time Out RENT Book, music and lyrics by JONATHAN LARSON directed by MICHAEL GREIF 'THE HOTTEST PROPERTY IN TOWN' NOW Mon-Sat 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00

Shakespeare's Globe Theatre 1998 Season Until 20 September BO 0171 401 9919/ 0171 316 4703(24 hrs) The Honest Whore A Mad World My Masters As you Like It The Merchant of Venice

ST MARTINS 0171 836 1443 Eves 8, Tue 2.45, Sat 5& 8 AGATHA CHRISTIE'S THE MOUSETRAP 46th YEAR

STRAND THEATRE Box Off & cc (no fee) 0171 930 8800 cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Groups 0171 413 3321/0171 436 5588 *BUDDY* The Buddy Holly Story "BRILLIANT" Sun *BUDDY* "WONDERFUL STUFF" Sun Tel Mon-Thurs 8.0 Fri 5.30 & 8.30 Sats 5.00 & 8.30 ALL SEATS 1/2 PRICE FRI 5.30 PERF 9th KNOCKOUT YEAR! Over 3,500 Performances Now booking till the year 2000

VAUDEVILLE THEATRE BO/cc 836 9987 24hr cc 344 4444/420 0000 JOE ORTON'S OUTRAGEOUS COMEDY LOOT 'marvellously funny' D.Tel 'Sharp comic will' Evg. Std Eves 8pm. Mats Wed 3pm Sat 4pm FULLY AIR CONDITIONED

VICTORIA PALACE Bo 0171 834 1317 Previews from Sept 22,Opens Sept 30 21st Anniversary Production of * ANNIE * THE HIT MUSICAL starring LESLEY JOSEPH Evgs Tues - Sat 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30 SPECIAL 4PM SUNDAY PERF * DON'T WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW * * BOOK TODAY *

WYNDHAMS 369 1736/344 4444 WINNER! 1998 TONY AWARD BEST PLAY 1998 NY CRITICS AWARD 1997 OLIVIER AWARD BEST COMEDY 1996 STANDARD AWARD "ART" A new play by Yasmina Reza Trans by Christopher Hampton STACEY KEACH DAVID DUKES GEORGE WENDT 'Stunningly brilliant and funny' Times Eves 8, Mats Wed 3, Sat & Sun 5

To advertise in this section please call the Entertainments team on: 0171 680 6222 or fax 0171 481 9313

CLASSICAL CONCERTS

COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24hr) ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA Tom 7.00 RUSALKA Wed 7.30 OTELLO

CLASSICAL CONCERTS

"A great event in a great hall" Humphrey Carpenter, BBC Radio

MAHLER THE SPECTACLE

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra plays Mahler at the Royal Albert Hall. Tickets £5 - £40

Thursday 17th September 1998	Sunday 20th September 1998	Monday 5th October 1998	Sunday 11th October 1998	Tuesday 10th November 1998
Des Knaben Wunderhorn, pt 1	Des Knaben Wunderhorn, pt 2	Symphony No.2 (Resurrection)	Das klagende Lied	Symphony No.3
Symphony No.1	Symphony No.4	(Also at Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham 2nd Oct. and Warwick Arts Centre 7th Oct.)	Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen	Conductor: Yuri Temirkanov
Conductor: Daniele Gatti	Conductor: Daniele Gatti	Conductor: Gilbert Kaplan	Conductor: Neeme Järvi	

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

BOOK NOW 0171 589 8212

ART GALLERIES

Gordon Reece Galleries Present one selling exhibitions Gabbeh "Like paintings for the floor" Antique & contemporary abstract rugs. 16 Sept - 17 Oct 16 Clifford St, London W1 Tel 0171 439 0007 Antique Chinese Furniture Classic simplicity & purity of line. until 9th Nov Knaresborough N Yorks Tel 01423 866219

FINAL 2 WEEKS! SHOW BOAT "One of the best nights of theatre in the West End - or indeed anywhere - I've seen in years. BEG, STEAL OR BORROW TO GET TICKETS!" Home/Sky • CLASSIC FM Prince Edward Theatre • London

The cat's whiskers/Sprite | ... profit from our principles

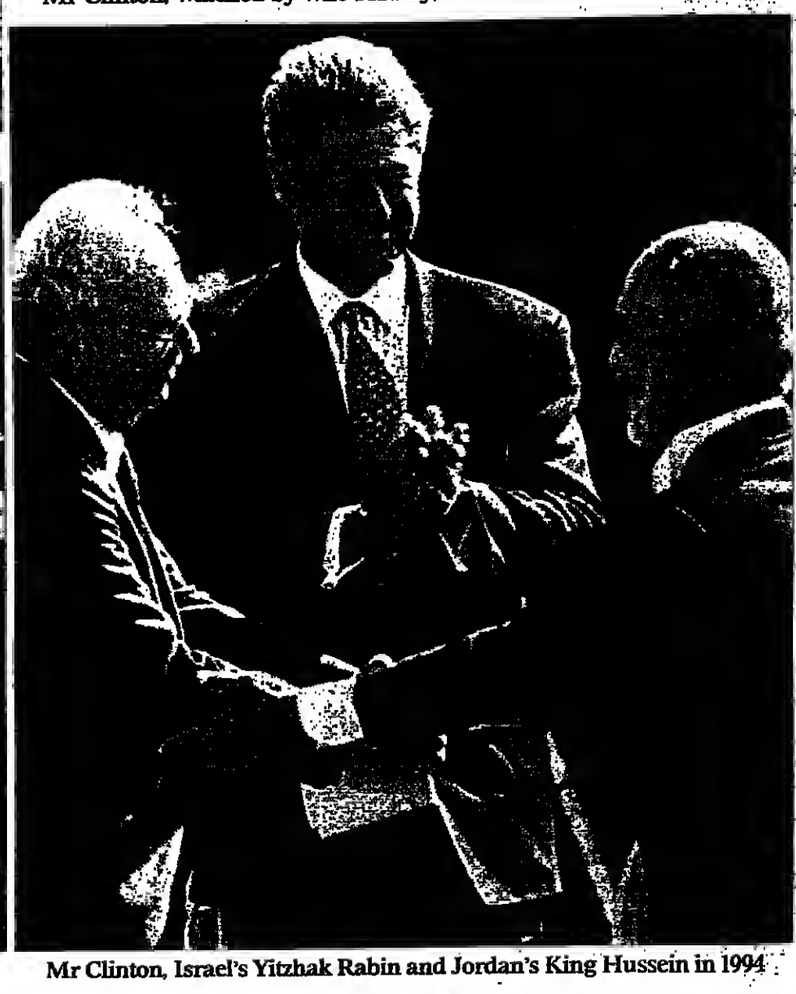
THE FALL OF CLINTON

CHILDHOOD

A youthful Bill Clinton with his mother, Virginia, and step-brother, Roger, in a family portrait taken in 1959

Mr Clinton, watched by wife Hillary, is sworn in as 42nd President

Bill Clinton cut a chubby figure at Oxford in 1968. Eleven years later he was being sworn in as Governor of Arkansas



Mr Clinton, Israel's Yitzhak Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein in 1994

Continued from page 21

London when as President he reached out to Sinn Fein. He had just witnessed the great civil rights battles in the American South. Now he saw Catholic civil rights marchers being similarly beaten as the Troubles flared.

"I could see it coming, that religious differences were likely to lead to the same kind of problems that racial differences had in my childhood," he told *The Times* in 1995.

From Oxford Mr Clinton went to Yale Law School, where he spotted his future wife — and most trusted political adviser — in the library. "If you're going to keep staring at me and I'm going to keep staring back we should at least introduce ourselves. I'm Hillary Rodham," she declared.

He worked for George McGovern's 1972 presidential campaign, returned to Arkansas to teach law, and was elected attorney-general while Hillary went to work for the prestigious Rose Law Firm in Little Rock. In 1978 he was elected Governor, at 32 the youngest in the land, and two years later became the youngest ex-Governor after his vaulting ambition got the better of him. Not for the last time in his career, Mr Clinton bounced back. He was re-elected in 1982 and remained Governor for the next ten years, building contacts across the country and preparing for the inevitable presidential bid.

Initially 1992 did not seem a propitious year for such a bid. Mr Clinton had promised Arkansas during his last re-election campaign that he would not run. Washington was already awash with rumours about the women in his life. But as as one senior Democrat after another was deterred by President Bush's phenomenal post-Gulf War popularity, and as that popularity steadily evaporated, he resolved to run. Mr Clinton's political message was attractive enough. He presented himself as the centrist "New Democrat" who would end the party's slavish obedience to left-wing minority interest groups, the champion of the law-abiding, hard-working common man, the politician who could marry government activism with free market nostrums.

The problem was not the message but the messenger, and a campaign that inspired the novel, *Primary Colors*, was nearly finished before it began. In snowy New Hampshire the Democratic front-runner was rocked, first by Gennifer Flowers, a former nightclub singer who claimed to have had a 12-year affair with the Governor and produced tapes that fell just short of proving it. Then came the leak of his letter to the ROTC commander in Arkansas that all but exposed him as a draft dodger.

"All I've been asked about is a woman I didn't sleep with and a draft I didn't dodge," he protested as the opinion poll ratings went into free-fall just days before the nation's critical first primary.

It was then America caught its first glimpse of Mr Clinton's extraordinary tenacity and resilience. The pundits wrote him off, but he fought back. He and Mrs Clinton went on prime-time television to admit unspecified past problems in their marriage but insisted that all was now fine. They campaigned non-stop. On the night Mr Clinton rushed onto television after the very first exit polls and dubbed himself the "Comeback Kid". The label stuck though he actually won only 25 per cent of the vote and came in second to the improbable Paul Tsongas.

Mr Clinton had another great attribute of a successful politician: luck. He faced a remarkably weak Democrat field, especially when Mario Cuomo, New York's equally silver-tongued Governor, opted not to run even as his plane for New Hampshire was running on the tarmac — and after New Hampshire the nomination always looked like being his. He also faced an incumbent in President Bush who was savaged in New Hampshire by America's premier wordsmith, Pat Buchanan, hobbled by a stagnant economy, and a singularly inept and vision-less campaigner. "Message — I care," Mr Bush famously told the recession-hit citizens of New Hampshire, and later underscored how out of touch he was when he appeared bemused by a simple supermarket scanner.

> ‘If you're going to keep staring at me and I'm going to keep staring back we should at least introduce ourselves. I'm Hillary Rodham’

Mr Clinton's problem was Ross Perot, the Texas billionaire who was running as an independent and even more of an anti-establishment candidate than himself. Mr Perot caught the imagination of an angry electorate concerned only with America's domestic and economic problems now that the Cold War was over.

For a while that spring and summer the diminutive, jug-eared Texan actually led both the established parties' candidates in the polls. Mr Clinton was utterly eclipsed, a distant third in the polls, $4 million (£2.4 million) in debt, and so starved of attention that he resorted to playing the saxaphone on the Arsenio Hall show in his sunglasses. But then came Mr Clinton's next great stroke of luck.

Mid-way through a superbly stage-managed Democratic convention Mr Perot abruptly quit the race. The millions of Republicans he had loosed from their traditional moorings gave Mr Clinton a second look and liked what they saw. He had just selected the impeccably centrist Al Gore as his running mate, and his speech accepting the nomination was a tour de force.

"In the name of all those who do the work, pay the taxes, raise the kids — in the name of the hard-working Americans who make up our forgotten middle class, I proudly accept your nomination for the presidency of the United States," he proclaimed to thousands of jubilant Democrats packed into the Madison Square Gardens.

"I have news for the forces of greed and the defenders of the status quo: your time has come — and gone. It's time for a change in America," he said, and concluded an emotional peroration with the words: "I end tonight where it all began for me: I still believe in a place called Hope."

It was a triumphant address, a far cry from his dismal and interminable speech nominating Michael Dukakis for the 1988 nomination when the only cheer was for the words "and finally".

From then on Mr Clinton did not look back, though his staff were constantly on the lookout for "bimbo eruptions". The Republican convention in Houston the following month was hijacked by the far Right. Mr Perot jumped back into the race, but inflicted more harm on Mr Bush. Britain's ruling Conservative party was accused of trawling through Home Office files on Mr Bush's behalf for dirt on Mr Clinton. The President's increasingly virulent attacks on Mr Clinton's character and patriotism simply made Mr Bush look desperate.

To the constant refrain of his unofficial theme song, "*Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow*", Mr Clinton completed his superhuman campaign with an amazing 30-hour swing of 4,100 miles, arriving back in Little Rock at dawn on election day with no voice left. That night he was elected America's 42nd President — the first from Arkansas and the first born after the Second World War — in a near-landslide. Little Rock will never again see such celebrations.

Mr Clinton bought to Washington colleagues from Arkansas. Friends of Bill culled from most periods of his life including Oxford, women and blacks whose presence was supposed to create an Administration that looked like America. What they lacked was experience of governing, and wiser Democrats who had served in the Carter Administration were largely overlooked.

That weakness was not apparent the bright, cold day that Mr Clinton arrived in Washington for his inauguration from Thomas Jefferson's Virginia home. The capital was thronged with Democrats celebrating their return to power after 12 years in the wilderness, and Mr Clinton rose to the occasion with a Kennedyesque speech to a multitude that stretched away into the distance down Washington's famous mall. "So, today, we pledge an end to the

Continued on page 23

Posthouse
£25
Bed and Breakfast
per person, per night
(excluding Saturday nights)
Go now!
Posthouse is a division of Forte Hotels

Offer only available for breaks taken by 3rd October 1998. See your travel agent or call
0345 40 40 40
Quoting reference TOP NEWS 2

PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS

Aberdeen, Belfast, Bexley, Birmingham - Great Barr, Birmingham Airport, Birmingham City, Brighouse, Bristol, Cardiff, Carlisle, Chester, Croydon, Derby/Burton, Dover, Epping, Fareham, Glasgow Airport, Glasgow Erskine Bridge, Gloucester, Grimsby, Havant, Haydock, Hull, Ipswich, Lancaster, Leeds/Bradford (Bramhope), Leeds/Selby, Leicester, Lincoln, Maidstone/Sevenoaks, Manchester Airport, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Norwich, Peterborough, Portsmouth, Preston, Rochester, Sheffield, South Mimms, Southampton, Southampton/Eastleigh, Stevenage, Swansea, Taunton, Teesside, Wakefield, Warrington/Runcorn, Washington, York, Bolton* (The Beaumont), Liverpool* (The Gladstone), Southampton* (Polygon), Walsall* (The Boundary), Worcester* (The Giffard)

*Not part of the Posthouse brand

TERMS & CONDITIONS: Price shown is per person based on 1 night accommodation, excluding Saturdays, full traditional breakfast & VAT at 17.5% based on two adults sharing a standard twin/double room. At Forte, up to two children under 16 stay free when sharing a room with two adults, subject to availability of a suitable room. Breaks must be taken by 3rd October 1998. All reservations are subject to availability with a limited number of rooms available at these promotional rates. These offers cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or special promotion.

هكذا من الأصل

THE FALL OF CLINTON

STATESMAN AND FUN LOVER

Peacemaking with Yassir Arafat, left, and Binyamin Netanyahu at the White House in 1996

Steven Spielberg, the director, with the golfing President in June

Out jogging last year with daughter Chelsea

Chelsea's photograph of her golfer father

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, meets President Clinton in Belfast in November 1996

The "lonesome cowboy" image: President Clinton goes riding on a white horse in 1995

The saxophonist President in Washington

Continued from page 22

era of deadlock and drift—a new season of American renewal has begun," he said. "It is time to break the bad habit of expecting something for nothing, from our government or each other. Let us all take more responsibility, not only for ourselves and our families but for our communities and our country.

"From this joyous mountaintop of celebration we hear a call to service in the valley. We have heard the trumpets. We have changed the guards. And now, each in our way, we must answer the call."

Mr Clinton also promised the most ethical Administration there had ever been.

In retrospect that was the high point of Mr Clinton's political career. Only once again would he receive such acclaim, and that was during his visit to Northern Ireland in 1995 when tens of thousands of Catholics and Protestants turned out to greet him and demonstrate their yearning for peace. He enjoyed one of the shortest political honeymoons in history as this former Governor of a small southern state and his inexperienced advisers lurched from one miscalculation to another.

Mr Clinton swiftly alienated great sections of conservative Middle America by trying to end the ban on homosexuals in the military. Having promised middle-class tax cuts, he floated a new energy tax. Determined to have a woman as Attorney-General, he only settled on Janet Reno after his first two nominees had to be withdrawn because they had employed illegal immigrants as nannies.

He alienated the self-important White House media by restricting their access, and there were numerous colourful stories about ear-ringed, pony-tailed young policy wonks munching pizza and hijacking state rooms for endless inconclusive seminars. At the end of his first 100 days he had the worst ratings of any modern President. Mr Clinton

> ❛ We pledge an end to the era of deadlock and drift. A new season of renewal has begun. We have changed the guard. Now we must answer the call ❜

appointed an old friend, Lani Guinier, to head the Justice Department's civil rights division, then abandoned her when opponents dug up some of her old writings that had a distinctly radical bent. He enjoyed a $200 haircut (£120) while Air Force One blocked the runway of Los Angeles airport.

Worse was to follow. Many arch-conservatives never accepted the legitimacy of Mr Clinton's election with just 43 per cent of the vote. They were convinced of his essential corruption. They went sniffing for scandal, and the new Administration obligingly played into their hands.

Seven long-serving members of the White House travel office were dismissed, apparently at the behest of FOBs (Friends of Bill) who wanted the business. A White House aide from Arkansas was found to have ordered up FBI background files on several hundred Republicans. Then in July 1993 Vincent Foster, the deputy White House counsel and another Arkansan, killed himself in a park in suburban Virginia.

Foster had worked with Mrs Clinton at the Rose Law Firm. He was dealing with questions about an obscure Arkansas land deal involving the Clintons at the time of his death. Within hours of his suicide senior White House officials had searched and removed files from his office.

The conspiracy theorists had a field day. The Whitewater affair became increasingly big news, and in January 1994 Robert Fiske was named as special prosecutor to investigate. Mr Fiske subsequently handed over to Kenneth Starr, the scope of the investigation steadily widened to include Travelgate, Filegate and other alleged wrongdoings, and ended up four years and $40 million later with Monica Lewinsky telling a grand jury all about her affair with Mr Clinton.

In December 1993 the ultra-conservative *American Spectator* magazine compounded Mr Clinton's problems by publishing the claims of four Arkansas state troopers who said they had procured a number of women for Mr Clinton while he was Governor. One of them, Paula Jones, then sued Mr Clinton for alleged sexual harassment, claiming he had lured her up to a Little Rock hotel room

Continued on page 24

ONLY
£15 LINE RENTAL
CALLS FROM ONLY 2P PER MIN
WHY PAY £17.50 PER MONTH LINE RENTAL WHEN YOU CAN PAY (INC.VAT) ONLY £15 FOR LIFE
FREE 20 MINUTES OF CALLS PER MONTH
FREE NOKIA 3110 DIGITAL PHONE
FREE PORTABLE HANDS-FREE KIT
FREE LEATHER CARRY CASE & IN CAR ADAPTOR
FREE CASIO PERSONAL ORGANISER
FREE NEXT DAY DELIVERY
14 DAY PEACE OF MIND GUARANTEE
NOKIA 3110
Latest Nokia GSM Phone
95 hr battery/2.75 hr talk time
Compact and lightweight
vodafone
Ref: TIV1209
OPEN: Mon-Thurs 8am-10pm • Fri 8am-8pm • Sat 9am-5pm • Sun 9am-8pm
Have your credit card to hand and Dial-a-Phone now on Freephone:
0800 00 00 77
24 Hours
DIAL-a-PHONE

New Portland
End of season Sale
Up To 30% Off* hardwood conservatories
PLUS
THIS WEEK EVERY CONSERVATORY COMES WITH
FREE AIR CONDITIONING
USUAL INSTALLED PRICE £1500!
■ KEEPS YOU COOL IN THE SUMMER AND WARM IN THE WINTER
■ LOW RUNNING COSTS
■ FULLY INSTALLED
New Portland's complete service takes care of everything
• Full design, planning and technical support • Foundations and groundwork • Liaison with local authority for planning permission if required • Compatible brick or stonework • Balanced frames and doors • Maintenance-free roof designs • Full damp-proofing and floor insulation • Your own dedicated project manager • Free customer care line
TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR FREE DESIGN SERVICE AND COLOUR BROCHURE CALL
LINES OPEN 24 HOURS 7 DAYS A WEEK 0800 26 91 26 CALL FREE, NO OBLIGATION
THE COMPANY THAT WON'T BE BEATEN ON SERVICE OR PRICE
Please arrange for my free site survey ☐
Please send me my free 44 page book of conservatories ☐
Name Telephone
Address
Postcode TI 12/9/98
Post to: Portland Conservatories, FREEPOST MR 5849, Manchester M16 1PL
PORTLAND CONSERVATORIES
*PRICE LIST DATED NOVEMBER 1997. PORTLAND RESERVE THE RIGHT TO AMEND SPECIFICATIONS AND THE CONSERVATORY SHOWN IS FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY. NO OTHER OFFERS APPLY. U.K. MAINLAND ONLY. **SPECIFICATION OF AIR CONDITIONING UNIT MAY VARY AND WILL BE OF PORTLAND'S CHOICE.

THE FALL OF CLINTON

FAMILY MAN

A secluded beach in the Virgin Islands provided a romantic holiday for the Clintons in January

The Clintons, doting parents to Chelsea, at the Democratic convention in Chicago in 1996

The Clintons holding the floor at the New York Inaugural Ball at the Kennedy Centre last year

Continued from page 23

where he made lewd sexual advances.

There were foreign policy fiascos. The new administration dithered over Bosnia and fell out with its European allies before eventually agreeing a common and ultimately effective policy. Haitian thugs prevented a US warship from docking, and Mr Clinton reversed himself on accepting Haitian refugees, though eventually he succeeded in restoring a fragile democracy in that Caribbean island. In Somalia US troops were ignominiously withdrawn after 17 US Rangers were ambushed and killed by a Somali warlord.

But there were also some notable successes. Mr Clinton pushed a five-year deficit reduction package through Congress, beat back a rising tide of protectionism to win approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement, and did much to promote reform in Russia.

Mr Clinton found his political footing and moved back to the centre, but too late to stop the bureaucratic healthcare reform plans devised and championed by his wife.

These were widely perceived as big government run amok. They played into the hands of Newt Gingrich and his Republican revolutionaries whose *Contract with America* promised to roll back big government and return power to the people.

In November 1994 the Republicans seized control of both Houses of Congress for the first time in 40 years. The vote was seen as a massive repudiation of the President. Mr Gingrich was crowned America's de facto president, and Mr Clinton was left protesting his relevance.

"I don't consider myself a titular head of state," he protested at a press conference that three of America's four main television networks declined to broadcast.

The scandals that beset Mr Clinton during his first two years continued unabated. Special prosecutors were appointed to investigate several of his Cabinet secretaries. Webster Hubbell, his associate attorney-general and fellow Arkansan, went to jail. His Whitewater business partners were convicted.

In January 1996 Mrs Clinton — once hailed as "Saint Hillary" by *The New York Times* — became the first First Lady to be subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury over a suspected obstruction of justice in the White House. In the middle of the 1996 Democratic convention Dick Morris, Mr Clinton's chief strategist, resigned over an affair with a prostitute.

> ‘The candidate of change recast himself as a bulwark against Republican ‘extremism’. The Man from Hope became the Man from Fear’

But with hindsight the Republican triumph proved Mr Clinton's salvation.

Mr Gingrich proved an abrasive, unlovable figure. He and his followers interpreted their victory as a resounding mandate for their "revolution". They produced a plan to balance the budget by slashing spending on cherished social programmes, then shut down the Government to force Mr Clinton's compliance.

Mr Clinton refused, shrewdly gambling that while Americans hated government in the abstract they loved its services.

Mr Clinton, the candidate of "change" in 1992, recast himself as a bulwark against Republican "extremism". The Man from Hope became the Man from Fear, and his recovery began.

He brilliantly articulated the nation's grief after the Oklahoma bombing. He skilfully averted a debilitating challenge for the Democrats' presidential nomination. He enjoyed a huge break when Colin Powell chose not to seek the Republican nomination. When Robert Dole, the 72-year-old Senate leader, tacked sharply to the right to secure the Republican nomination Mr Clinton seized the centre ground.

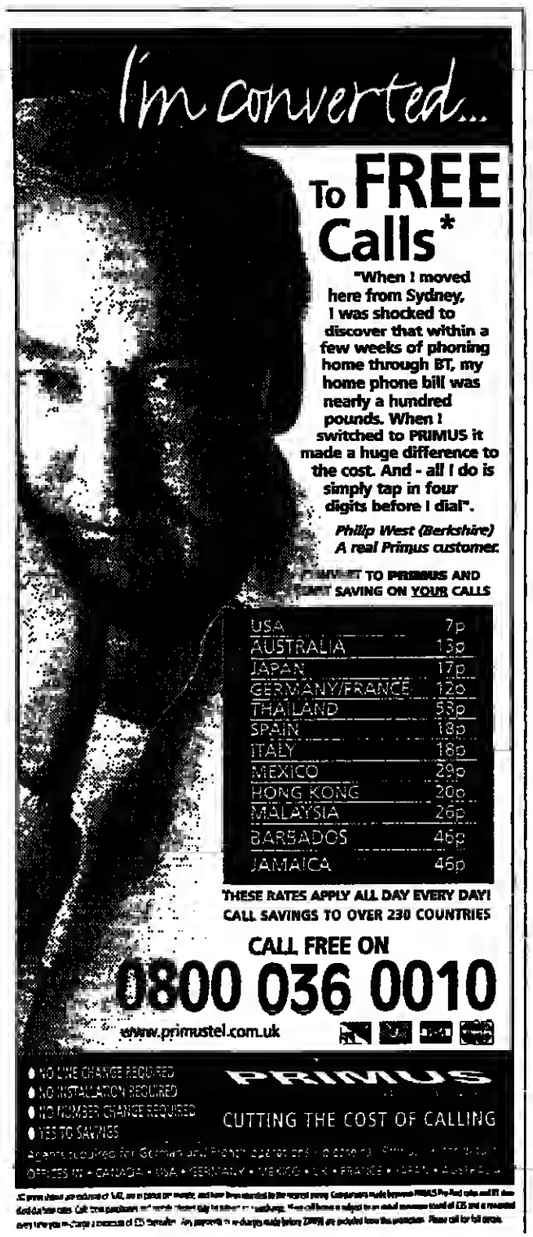
Under Mr Morris's tutelage he purloined all that was popular from the Republicans' agenda and demonised the rest. Knowing Democrats had nowhere else to go, he cynically signed a Republican welfare Bill despite his own Administration's predictions that it would throw a million children into poverty.

As the 1996 campaign advanced he unveiled family-friendly initiatives in support of television V-chips, school uniforms and constraints on the tobacco industry, but what really fuelled his drive for re-election was America's sizzling economy.

Mr Clinton is also the consummate campaigner, a man whose face lights up at the sight of a crowd and a politician who can connect with an audience like no other. On November 10, 1996, he romped to victory over Mr Dole in the last election of a lifetime of almost permanent campaigning. In a three-way race with Mr Perot, he won 49 per cent of the vote, just short of the decisive mandate he had hoped for, but he nonethelss became the first Democratic President since Franklin Roosevelt to win a second term and the youngest of the 13 American Presidents to win two elections.

Mr Clinton was not swept home on a wave of popular affection. The turnout was the lowest in 72 years. Mr Dole was an unusually weak candidate. Mr Dole had hammered away on the character issue, urging voters to pass the torch back to a tried-and-tested generation that had won both the Second World War and the Cold War, and the next hint of scandal — this time campaign finance — was already in the air. But the electorate evidently placed a higher premium on competence than character. They ignored the warnings of Mr Perot and the many Republicans who said that the scandals the Teflon President had outrun in his first term would trip him in the second.

Curiously the 1996 results almost exactly replicated those of 1972 when Richard Nixon was swept back into office, and now perhaps the parallel will be extended.



Save a third off our Caribbean Cruises.

Travel plan for Fred. Olsen Black Watch Fly-Cruises departing 15/10/98, 27/10/98 and 8/11/98.

Day 1	Fly to Barbados from Gatwick/Manchester	Day 8	Antigua
Day 2	Barbados	Day 9	Dominica
Day 3	Cruising	Day 10	St Lucia
Day 4	Curaçao	Day 11	Bequia
Day 5	Cruising	Day 12	Grenada
Day 6	Tortola	Day 13	Fly to Barbados
Day 7	St Bartholemy	Day 14	Arrive Gatwick/ Manchester

Right now, you can get up to 34% off brochure prices. That means you could save as much as £1,483 on your next Fred. Olsen Caribbean Cruise. Prices start from £1,195 for this 13 night cruise departing from Gatwick or Manchester. To book, call into your local Worldchoice shop or phone our Cruisesaver Hotline on 0990 662 000.

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines

worldchoice
together we'll go far

All offers are subject to availability, full details on request. 34% discount subject to the purchase of our travel insurance at the time of booking, typical cost Worldwide £55. Offers may not be combinable with any other offers. Participating shops only. Prices do not include taxes. Telesales lines on Mon-Fri 9am-8pm, Sat and Sun 9am-5pm. Credit card charge of 1% per transaction may apply to bookings, min charge £2, max charge £20. Worldchoice ABTA 48812 and A4811 acting as retail agents for Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines ATOL 944

هكذا من الأصل

THE STARR REPORT

The President called Monica 'Sweetie'

Introduction

As required by Section 595(c) of Title 28 of the United States Code, the Office of the Independent Counsel (OIC or Office) hereby submits substantial and credible information that President William Jefferson Clinton committed acts that may constitute grounds for an impeachment. (1)

The information reveals that President Clinton:

lied under oath at a civil deposition while he was a defendant in a sexual harassment lawsuit;

lied under oath to a grand jury;

attempted to influence the testimony of a potential witness who had direct knowledge of facts that would reveal the falsity of his deposition testimony;

attempted to obstruct justice by facilitating a witness's plan to refuse to comply with a subpoena;

attempted to obstruct justice by encouraging a witness to file an affidavit that the President knew would be false, and then by making use of that false affidavit at his own deposition;

lied to potential grand jury witnesses, knowing that they would repeat those lies before the grand jury; and

engaged in a pattern of conduct that was inconsistent with his constitutional duty to faithfully execute the laws.

The evidence shows that these acts, and others, were part of a pattern that began as an effort to prevent the disclosure of information about the President's relationship with a former White House intern and employee, Monica S. Lewinsky, and continued as an effort to prevent the information being disclosed in an ongoing criminal investigation.

Factual Background

In May 1994, Paula Corbin Jones filed a lawsuit against William Jefferson Clinton in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas. (2) Ms Jones alleged that while he was the Governor of Arkansas, President Clinton sexually harassed her during an incident in a Little Rock hotel room. (3) President Clinton denied the allegations. He also challenged the ability of a private litigant to pursue a lawsuit against a sitting President. In May 1997, the Supreme Court unanimously rejected the President's legal argument. The Court concluded that Ms Jones, "[like] every other citizen who properly invokes [the District Court's] jurisdiction ... has a right to an orderly disposition of her claims," and that therefore Ms Jones was entitled to pursue her claims while the President was in office. (4) A few months later, the pretrial discovery process began.(5)

One sharply disputed issue in the Jones litigation was the extent to which the President would be required to disclose information about sexual relationships he may have had with "other women". Ms Jones's attorneys sought disclosure of this information, arguing that it was relevant to proving that the President had propositioned Ms Jones. The President resisted the discovery requests, arguing that evidence of relationships with other women (if any) was irrelevant.

In late 1997, the issue was presented to United States District Judge Susan Webber Wright for resolution. Judge Wright's decision was unambiguous. For purposes of pretrial discovery, President Clinton was required to provide certain information about his alleged relationships with other women. In an order dated December 11, 1997, for example, Judge Wright said: "The Court finds, therefore, that the plaintiff is entitled to information regarding any individuals with whom the President had sexual relations or proposed or sought to have sexual relations and who were during the relevant time frame state or federal employees." (6)

Judge Wright left for another day the issue whether any information of this type would be admissible were the case to go to trial. But for purposes of answering the written questions served on the President, and for purposes of answering questions at a deposition, the District Court ruled that the President must respond.

In mid-December 1997, the President answered one of the written discovery questions posed by Ms Jones on this issue. When asked to identify all women who were state or federal employees and with whom he had had "sexual relations" since 1986, (7) the President answered under oath: "None." (8) For purposes of this interrogatory, the term "sexual relations" was not defined.

On January 17, 1998, President Clinton was questioned under oath about his relationships with other women in the workplace, this time at a deposition. Judge Wright presided over the deposition. The President was asked numerous questions about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, by then a 24-year-old former White House intern, White House employee, and Pentagon employee. Under oath and in the presence of Judge Wright, the President denied that he had engaged in a "sexual affair", a "sexual relationship", or "sexual relations" with Ms. Lewinsky. The President also stated that he had no specific memory of having been alone with Ms. Lewinsky, that he remembered few details of any gifts they might have exchanged, and indicated that no one except his attorneys had kept him informed of Ms. Lewinsky's status as a potential witness in the Jones case.

The Investigation

On January 12, 1998, this Office received information that Monica Lewinsky was attempting to influence the testimony of one of the witnesses in the Jones litigation, and that Ms. Lewinsky herself was prepared to provide false information under oath in that lawsuit. The OIC was also informed that Ms. Lewinsky had spoken to the President and the President's close friend Vernon Jordan about being subpoenaed to testify in the Jones suit, and that Vernon Jordan and others were helping her find a job. The allegations with respect to Mr. Jordan and the job search were similar to ones already under review in the ongoing Whitewater investigation.(9)

After gathering preliminary evidence to test the information's reliability, the OIC presented the evidence to the Attorney General. Based on her review of the information, the Attorney General determined that a further investigation by the Independent Counsel was required.

On the following day, Attorney General Reno petitioned the Special Division of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, on an expedited basis, to expand the jurisdiction of Independent Counsel Kenneth W. Starr. On January 16, 1998, in response to the Attorney General's request, the Special Division issued an order that provides in pertinent part:

The Independent Counsel shall have jurisdiction and authority to investigate to the maximum extent authorized by the Independent Counsel Reauthorization Act of 1994 whether Lewinsky or others suborned perjury, obstructed justice, intimidated witnesses, or otherwise violated federal law other than a Class B or C misdemeanor or infraction in dealing with witnesses, potential witnesses, attorneys, or others concerning the civil case Jones v. Clinton.(10)

On January 28, 1998, after the allegations about the President's relationship with Ms. Lewinsky became public, the OIC filed a Motion for Limited Intervention and a Stay of Discovery in Jones v. Clinton. The OIC argued that the civil discovery process should be halted because it was having a negative effect on the criminal investigation. The OIC represented to the Court that numerous individuals then under subpoena in Jones, including Monica Lewinsky, were integral to the OIC's investigation, and that courts routinely stayed discovery in such circumstances.(11)

The next day Judge Wright responded to the OIC's motion. The Court ruled that discovery would be permitted to continue, except to the extent that it sought information about Lewinsky. The Court acknowledged that "evidence concerning Monica Lewinsky might be relevant to the issues in [the Jones] case". (12) It concluded, however, that this evidence was not "essential to the core issues in this case", and that some of that evidence "might even be inadmissible". (13) The Court found that the potential value of this evidence was outweighed by the potential delay to the Jones case in continuing to seek discovery about Ms. Lewinsky.(14) The Court also was concerned that the OIC's investigation "could be impaired and prejudiced were the Court to permit inquiry into the Lewinsky matter by the parties in this civil case."(15)

On March 9, 1998, Judge Wright denied Ms. Jones's motion for reconsideration of the decision regarding Monica Lewinsky. The order states:

The Court readily acknowledges that evidence of the Lewinsky matter might have been relevant to plaintiff's case and, as she argues, that such evidence might possibly have helped her establish, among other things, intent, absence of mistake, motive, and habit on the part of the President. . .º. Nevertheless, whatever relevance such evidence may otherwise have . . . it simply is not essential to the core issues in this case . . . (16)

On April 1, 1998, Judge Wright granted President Clinton's motion for summary judgment, concluding that even if the facts alleged by Paula Jones were true, her claims failed as a matter of law.(17) Ms. Jones has filed an appeal, and as of the date of this Referral, the matter remains under consideration by the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

After the dismissal of Ms. Jones's lawsuit, the criminal investigation continued. It was (and is) the view of this Office that any attempt to obstruct the proper functioning of the judicial system, regardless of the perceived merits of the underlying case, is a serious matter that warrants further inquiry. After careful consideration of all the evidence, the OIC has concluded that the evidence of wrongdoing is substantial and credible, and that the wrongdoing is of sufficient gravity that it warrants referral to Congress.(18)

The Significance of the Evidence of Wrongdoing

It is not the role of this Office to determine whether the President's actions warrant impeachment by the House and removal by the Senate; those judgments are, of course, constitutionally entrusted to the legislative branch.(19) This Office is authorized, rather, to conduct criminal investigations and to seek criminal prosecutions for matters within its jurisdiction.(20) In carrying out its investigation, however, this Office also has a statutory duty to disclose to Congress information that "may constitute grounds for an impeachment," a task that inevitably requires judgment about the seriousness of the acts revealed by the evidence.

From the beginning, this phase of the OIC's investigation has been criticized as an improper inquiry into the President's personal behavior; indeed, the President himself suggested that specific inquiries into his conduct were part of an effort to "criminalize my private life."(21) The regrettable fact that the investigation has often required witnesses to discuss sensitive personal matters has fueled this perception.

All Americans, including the President, are entitled to enjoy a private family life, free from public or governmental scrutiny. But the privacy concerns raised in this case are subject to limits, three of which we briefly set forth here.

First. The first limit was imposed when the President was sued in federal court for alleged sexual harassment. The evidence in such litigation is often personal. At times, that evidence is highly embarrassing for both plaintiff and defendant. As Judge Wright noted at the President's January 1998 deposition, "I have never had a sexual harassment case where there was not some embarrassment."(22) Nevertheless, Congress and the Supreme Court have concluded that embarrassment-related concerns must give way to the greater interest in allowing aggrieved parties to pursue their claims. Courts have long recognized the difficulties of proving sexual harassment in the workplace, inasmuch as improper or unlawful behavior often takes place in private.(23) To excuse a party who lied or concealed evidence on the ground that the evidence covered only "personal" or "private" behavior would frustrate the goals that Congress and the courts have sought to achieve in enacting and interpreting the Nation's sexual harassment laws. That is particularly true when the conduct that is being concealed – sexual relations in the workplace between a high official and a young subordinate employee – itself conflicts with those goals.

Second. The second limit was imposed when Judge Wright required disclosure of the precise information that is in part the subject of this Referral. A federal judge specifically ordered the President, on more than one occasion, to provide the requested information about relationships with other women, including Monica Lewinsky. The fact that Judge Wright later determined that the evidence would not be admissible at trial, and still later granted judgment in the President's favor, does not change the President's legal duty at the time he testified. Like every litigant, the President was entitled to object to the discovery questions, and to seek guidance from the court if he thought those questions were improper. But having failed to convince the court that his objections were well founded, the President was duty bound to testify truthfully and fully. Perjury and attempts to obstruct the gathering of evidence can never be an acceptable response to a court order, regardless of the eventual course or outcome of the litigation.

Monica Lewinsky: gave explicit details of encounters

The Supreme Court has spoken forcefully about perjury and other forms of obstruction of justice:

In this constitutional process of securing a witness' testimony, perjury simply has no place whatever. Perjured testimony is an obvious and flagrant affront to the basic concepts of judicial proceedings. Effective restraints against this type of egregious offense are therefore imperative.(24)

The insidious effects of perjury occur whether the case is civil or criminal. Only a few years ago, the Supreme Court considered a false statement made in a civil administrative proceeding: "False testimony in a formal proceeding is intolerable. We must neither reward nor condone such a 'flagrant affront' to the truth-seeking function of adversary proceedings. . . . Perjury should be severely sanctioned in appropriate cases."(25) Stated more simply, "[p]erjury is an obstruction of justice."(26)

Third. The third limit is unique to the President. "The Presidency is more than an executive responsibility. It is the inspiring symbol of all that is highest in American purpose and ideals."(27) When he took the Oath of Office in 1993 and again in 1997, President Clinton swore that he would "faithfully execute the Office of President."(28) As the head of the Executive Branch, the President has the constitutional duty to "take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed."(29) The President gave his testimony in the Jones case under oath and in the presence of a federal judge, a member of a co-equal branch of government; he then testified before a federal grand jury, a body of citizens who had themselves taken an oath to seek the truth. In view of the enormous trust and responsibility attendant to his high Office, the President has a manifest duty to ensure that his conduct at all times complies with the law of the land.

In sum, perjury and acts that obstruct justice by any citizen – whether in a criminal case, a grand jury investigation, a congressional hearing, a civil trial, or civil discovery – are profoundly serious matters. When such acts are committed by the President of the United States, we believe those acts "may constitute grounds for an impeachment."

The Scope of the Referral

1. Background of the Investigation. The link between the OIC's jurisdiction – as it existed at the end of 1997 – and the matters set forth in this Referral is complex but direct. In January 1998, Linda Tripp, a witness in three ongoing OIC investigations, came forward with allegations that: (i) Monica Lewinsky was planning to commit perjury in Jones v. Clinton, and (ii) she had asked Ms. Tripp to do the same. Ms. Tripp also stated that: (i) Vernon Jordan had counseled Ms. Lewinsky and helped her obtain legal representation in the Jones case, and (ii) at the same time, Mr. Jordan was helping Ms. Lewinsky obtain employment in the private sector.

OIC investigators and prosecutors recognized parallels between Mr. Jordan's relationship with Ms. Lewinsky and his earlier relationship with a pivotal Whitewater-Madison figure, Webster L. Hubbell. Prior to January 1998, the OIC possessed evidence that Vernon Jordan – along with other high-level associates of the President and First Lady – helped Mr. Hubbell obtain lucrative consulting contracts while he was a potential witness and/or subject in the OIC's ongoing investigation. This assistance took place, moreover, while Mr. Hubbell was a target of a separate criminal investigation into his own conduct. The OIC also possessed evidence that the President and the First Lady knew and approved of the Hubbell-focused assistance.

Specifically, in the wake of his April 1994 resignation from the Justice Department, Mr. Hubbell launched a private consulting practice in Washington, D.C. In the startup process, Mr. Hubbell received substantial aid from important public and private figures. On the day prior to Mr. Hubbell announcing his resignation, White House Chief of Staff Thomas "Mack" McLarty attended a meeting at the White House with the President, First Lady, and others, where Mr. Hubbell's resignation was a topic of discussion.

At some point after the White House meeting, Mr. McLarty spoke with Vernon Jordan about Mr. Jordan's assistance to Mr. Hubbell. Mr. Jordan introduced Mr. Hubbell to senior executives at New York-based MacAndrews & Forbes Holding Co. Mr. Jordan is a director of Revlon, Inc, a company controlled by MacAndrews & Forbes. The introduction was successful; MacAndrews & Forbes retained Mr. Hubbell at a rate of $25,000 per quarter. Vernon Jordan informed the President that he was helping Mr. Hubbell.(31)

By late 1997, this Office was investigating whether a relationship existed between consulting payments to Mr. Hubbell and his lack of cooperation (specifically, his incomplete testimony) with the OIC's investigation.(32) In particular, the OIC was investigating whether Mr. Hubbell concealed information about certain core Arkansas matters, namely, the much-publicized Castle Grande real estate project and related legal work by the Rose Law Firm, including the First Lady.

Against this background, the OIC considered the January 1998 allegations that: (i) Ms. Lewinsky was prepared to lie in order to benefit the President, and (ii) Vernon Jordan was assisting Ms. Lewinsky in the Jones litigation, while simultaneously helping her apply for a private-sector job with, among others, Revlon, Inc.

Based in part on these similarities, the OIC undertook a preliminary investigation. On January 15, 1998, this Office informed the Justice Department of the results of our inquiry. The Attorney General immediately applied to the Special Division of the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit for an expansion of the OIC's jurisdiction. The Special Division granted this request and authorized the OIC to determine whether Monica Lewinsky or others had violated federal law in connection with the Jones v. Clinton case.

2. Current Status of the Investigation. When the OIC's jurisdiction was expanded to cover the Lewinsky matter in January 1998, several matters remained under active investigation by this Office. Evidence was being gathered and evaluated on, among other things, events related to the Rose Law Firm's representation of Madison Guaranty Savings & Loan Association; events related to the firings in the White House Travel Office; and events related to the use of FBI files. Since the current phase of the investigation began, additional events arising from the Lewinsky matter have also come under scrutiny, including possible perjury and obstruction of justice related to former White House volunteer Kathleen Willey, and the possible misuse of the personnel records of Pentagon employee Linda Tripp.

From the outset, it was our strong desire to complete all phases of the investigation before deciding whether to submit to Congress information – if any – that may constitute grounds for an impeachment. But events and the statutory command of Section 595(c) have dictated otherwise. As the investigation into the President's actions with respect to Ms. Lewinsky and the Jones litigation progressed, it became apparent that there was a significant body of substantial and credible information that met the Section 595(c) threshold. As that phase of the investigation neared completion, it also became apparent that a delay of this Referral until the evidence from all phases of the investigation had been evaluated would be unwise. Although Section 595(c) does not specify when information must be submitted, its text strongly suggests that information of this type belongs in the hands of Congress as soon as the Independent Counsel determines that the information is reliable.

All phases of the investigation are now nearing completion. This Office will soon make final decisions about what steps to take, if any, with respect to the other information it has gathered. Those decisions will be made at the earliest practical time, consistent with our statutory and ethical obligations.

The Contents of the Referral

The Referral consists of several parts. Part One is a Narrative. It begins with an overview of the information relevant to this investigation, then sets forth that information in chronological sequence. A large part of the Narrative is devoted to a description of the President's relationship with Ms Lewinsky. The nature of the relationship was the subject of many of the President's false statements, and his desire to keep the relationship secret provides a motive for many of his actions that apparently were designed to obstruct justice.

The Narrative is lengthy and detailed. It is the view of this Office that the details are crucial to an informed evaluation of the testimony, the credibility of witnesses, and the reliability of other evidence. Many of the details reveal highly personal information; many are sexually explicit. This is unfortunate,

Continues on page 26

Get the **Family Bonus** **PC** and the **digital** camera comes **FREE!**

intel inside celeron

The best value PC, digital camera, scanner & printer system in the High Street Today.

The latest Tiny Family Bonus System isn't simply a super, high-spec PC.

It also brings you the magic of digital photography.

The highly acclaimed Fuji digital camara simply links into your PC to produce full screen colour Images which can be run-off on your computer printer. Better still, the flatbed scanner and special image editing software allow you to change colours and alter digital photos to your haart's content. You'll never have to buy film again!

See tha exclusive Tiny offer at your nearest showroom.

- Intel® Celeron™ Processor 333MHz
- 32MB FAST SD RAM
- 4.3GB Ultra DMA IDE Hard Disk Drive
- 15" SVGA Colour Monitor
- 4MB 3D AGP Graphics Card
- 32 Speed Max CD ROM Drive
- Integrated Sound with Software Wavetable plus Tiny CPR50 Stereo Speakers
- Voice Fax/Modem 56Kbps
- Free Trial BT LineOne Internet Access
- *Fuji Digital Camera & Image Editing Software*
- Joystick
- *Flatbed Colour Scanner*
- Epson Stylus 300 Colour Printer
- Over £930 of Microsoft and Other Software
- Learn to speak French, Spanish & German Software
- **Windows 98 now included**

THE BIG, HIGH-QUALITY SOFTWARE BONUS.

OVER £930 OF SOFTWARE INCLUDED

Only Tiny gives you the outstanding software you want and need for your PC (complete with back-up disks)... latest Microsoft titles, Home Entertainment and Dorling Kindersley educational software.

£999 ex VAT

£1173.23 inc VAT

OTHER SYSTEMS START FROM **£599**

PAY NOTHING UNTIL 1999

0% INTEREST FREE CREDIT 26.9%

NO DEPOSIT PAYMENTS INTEREST On selected systems only

REPAYMENT EXAMPLE - FAMILY BONUS SYSTEM

PC cash price £1209.08 inc delivery £30+vat @ 17.5% Pay whole balance on or before due payment date interest free. Alternatively, pay 36 monthly payments of £52.43. Total amount payable £1887.48. APR 26.9%. Interest is calculated from day one of agreement. Written quotations upon request. Finance subject to status.

FOR MORE INFORMATION FREEPHONE **0800 731 9372**

tiny

THE BIGGEST PC MANUFACTURER IN THE HIGH STREET

TINY COMPUTERS LIMITED, REDHILL BUSINESS PARK, BONESHURST ROAD, SALFORDS, REDHILL, SURREY RH1 5YB. FAX 01293 822 514. www.tinycomp.co.uk

All trademarks acknowledged. All prices and manufacturers specifications are subject to change without notice. Please check availability before ordering. Goods are offered for sale subject to standard conditions of sale available on request. E&OE. Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks of the Intel Corporation. Tiny Computers Limited is part of the DT group. Prices exclude delivery.

74 SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE

ALTRINCHAM* BELFAST BIRMINGHAM BOLTON BRADFORD BRIGHTON BRISTOL BROMLEY CAMBRIDGE CANTERBURY CARDIFF CHELMSFORD CHELTENHAM CHESTER COVENTRY CRAWLEY CROYDON DERBY EALING EDINBURGH EXETER GLASGOW GLOUCESTER* GUILDFORD GRIMSBY HARROW HUDDERSFIELD HULL ILFORD IPSWICH* KINGSTON LAKESIDE LEEDS LEICESTER LIVERPOOL LINCOLN* LONDON N1* LONDON SW10* LONDON W2* LONDONDERRY LUTON* MANCHESTER MEADOWHALL - SHEFFIELD MIDDLESBROUGH MILTON KEYNES NEWCASTLE NEWPORT NORTHAMPTON* NORWICH NOTTINGHAM OXFORD PETERBOROUGH PLYMOUTH PORTSMOUTH PRESTON READING ROMFORD SHREWSBURY* SOLIHULL* SOUTHAMPTON STOKE-ON-TRENT* SUNDERLAND SUTTON SWANSEA SWINDON TAUNTON TRURO* TUNBRIDGE WELLS WATFORD WIGAN WOLVERHAMPTON* WORCESTER YORK

*Showrooms not open Sundays

LONDONDERRY NOW OPEN

THE STARR REPORT

'I never expected to find love with the President'

Continued from page 25
but it is essential. The President's defense to many of the allegations is based on a close parsing of the definitions that were used to describe his conduct. We have, after careful review, identified no manner of providing the information that reveals the falsity of the President's statements other than to describe his conduct with precision.

Part II of the Referral is entitled "Information that May Constitute Grounds for An Impeachment". This "Grounds" portion of the Referral summarizes the specific evidence that the President lied under oath and attempted to obstruct justice. This Part is designed to be understandable if read without the Narrative, although the full context in which the potential grounds for impeachment arise can best be understood if considered against the backdrop of information set forth in Part One.

Several volumes accompany the Referral. The Appendix contains relevant court orders, tables, a discussion of legal and evidentiary issues, background information on the Jones litigation, a diagram of the Oval Office, and other reference material. We next set forth a series of "Document Supplements", which attempt to provide some of the most important support material in an accessible format. Document Supplement A contains transcripts of the President's deposition testimony and grand jury testimony; Document Supplement B contains transcripts of Monica Lewinsky's testimony and interview statements. Document Supplements C, D, and E set forth the full text of the documents cited in the Referral. Although every effort has been made to provide full and accurate quotations of witnesses in their proper context, we urge review of the full transcripts of the testimony cited below.

1. Section 595(c) of Title 28 of the United States Code is part of the Ethics in Government Act. The section provides:
(c) Information relating to impeachment. — An independent counsel shall advise the House of Representatives of any substantial and credible information which such independent counsel receives, in carrying out the independent counsel's responsibilities under this chapter, that may constitute grounds for an impeachment. Nothing in this chapter or section 49 of this title [concerning the assignment of judges to the Special Division that appoints an independent counsel] shall prevent the Congress or either House thereof from obtaining information in the course of an impeachment proceeding.
2. Ms. Jones also named Arkansas State Trooper Danny Ferguson as a defendant. For a detailed background of the Jones v. Clinton lawsuit, see the accompanying Appendix, Tab C.
3. In 1991, Ms. Jones was an employee of the Arkansas Industrial Development Corporation. Ms. Jones alleged that while at work at a meeting at the Excelsior Hotel that day, she was invited into a hotel room with Governor Clinton, and that once she was there, the Governor exposed his genitals and asked her to perform oral sex on him. Ms. Jones alleged that she suffered various job detriments after refusing Governor Clinton's advances. This Referral expresses no view on the factual or legal merit, or lack thereof, of Ms. Jones's claims.
4. Jones v. Clinton, 117 S. Ct. 1636, 1652 (1997).
5. The purpose of discovery in a civil lawsuit is "to allow a broad search for facts, the names of witnesses, or any other matters which may aid a party in the preparation or presentation of his case." Fed. R. Civ. P. 26 advisory committee notes (1946). The discovery process allows the parties to obtain from their respective opponents written answers to interrogatories, oral testimony in depositions under oath, documents, and other tangible items so long as the information sought "appears reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence". Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1).
6. 92I-DC-00000461 (Dec. 11, 1997 Order at 3). Similarly, in a December 18, 1997 Order, Judge Wright noted that "the issue [was] one of discovery, not admissibility of evidence at trial. Discovery, as all counsel know, by its very nature takes unforeseen twists and turns and goes down numerous paths, and whether those paths lead to the discovery of admissible evidence often simply cannot be predetermined." 1414-DC-00001012-13 (Dec. 18, 1997 Order at 7-8).
7. V002-DC-00000020 (President Clinton's Responses to Plaintiff's Second Set of Interrogatories at 5).
8. V002-DC-00000053 (President Clinton's Supplemental Responses to Plaintiff's Second Set of Interrogatories at 2). During discovery in a civil lawsuit, the parties must answer written questions ("interrogatories") that are served on them by their opponent. Fed. R. Civ. P. 33. The answering party must sign a statement under penalty of perjury attesting to the truthfulness of the answers. Id.
9. For a brief discussion of the scope of the OIC's jurisdiction, see "The Scope of the Referral", below.
10. The full text of the Special Division's Order is set forth in the Appendix, Tab A.
11. Jones v. Clinton, Motion of the United States for Limited Intervention and a Stay of Discovery, at 6. The overlap in the proceedings was significant. Witnesses called before the grand jury in the criminal investigation had been subpoenaed by both parties to the civil case; defendant's counsel had subpoenaed information from the OIC; and the plaintiff's attorneys had subpoenaed documents directly related to the criminal matter.
12. Jones v. Clinton, Order, Jan. 29, 1998, at 2.
13. Id. 14. Id. at 2-3.
15. Id. at 3.
16. Jones v. Clinton, 993 F. Supp. 1217, 1222 (E.D. Ark. 1998) (footnote and emphasis omitted).
17. Jones v. Clinton, 990 F. Supp. 657, 679 (E.D. Ark. 1998).
18. In the course of its investigation, the OIC gathered information from a variety of sources, including the testimony of witnesses before the grand jury. Normally a federal prosecutor is prohibited by Rule 6(e) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure from disclosing grand jury material, unless it obtains permission from a court or is otherwise authorized by law to do so. This Office concluded that the statutory obligation of disclosure imposed on an Independent Counsel by 28 U.S.C. 7595(c) grants such authority. Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, the OIC obtained permission from the Special Division to disclose grand jury material as appropriate in carrying out its statutory duty. A copy of the disclosure order entered by the Special Division is set forth in the Appendix, Tab B. We also advised Chief Judge Norma Holloway Johnson, who supervises the principal grand jury in this matter, of our determination on that issue.
19. U.S. Const., art. I, 7 2, cl. 5; art. I, 7 3, cl. 6.
20. 28 U.S.C. 7 594(a).
21. Before the grand jury, the President refused to answer certain questions about his conduct with Ms. Lewinsky on the ground that he believed the inquiries were unnecessary "and ... I think, frankly, go too far in trying to criminalize my private life". Clinton 8/17/98 GJ at 94.

Others have argued that alleged "lies about sex" have nothing to do with the President's performance in office, and thus, are inconsequential. Former White House Counsel Jack Quinn articulated this view:

This is a matter of sex between consenting adults, and the question of whether or not one or the other was truthful about it ... This doesn't go to the question of his conduct in office. And, in that sense, it's trivial.

John F. Harris, "In Political Washington, A Confession Consensus," Washington Post, Aug. 4, 1998, at A1 (quoting Quinn's statement on CBS's "Face the Nation").

The President echoed this theme in his address to the Nation on August 17, 1998, following his grand jury testimony:

... I intend to reclaim my family life for my family. It's nobody's business but ours. Even Presidents have private lives. It is time to stop the pursuit of personal destruction and the prying into private lives and get on with our national life.

Testing of a President: In His Own Words, Last Night's Address, The New York Times, Aug. 18, 1998, at A12.
22. Clinton 1/17/98 Depo. at 9.
As two commentators have noted: "[T]o the extent that discovery is permitted with respect to the sexual activities of either the complainant or the alleged harasser, courts likely will freely entertain motions to limit the availability of such information to the parties and their counsel and to prohibit general dissemination of such sensitive data to third parties." See Barbara Lindeman & David D. Kadue, Sexual Harassment in Employment Law 563 (1992).
23. A sexual harassment case can sometimes boil down to a credibility battle between the parties, in which "the existence of corroborative evidence or the lack thereof is likely to be crucial." Henson v. City of Dundee, 682 F.2d 897, 912 n.25 (11th Cir. 1982). If there are no eyewitnesses, it can be critical for a plaintiff to learn in discovery whether the defendant has committed the same kind of acts before or since. Thus, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission explained in a 1990 policy statement that the plaintiff's allegations of an incident of sexual harassment "would be further buttressed if other employees testified that the supervisor propositioned them as well." EEOC Policy Guidance (1990). The rules of evidence establish that such corroboration may be used to show the defendant's "motive, opportunity, intent, preparation, plan, knowledge, identity, or absence of mistake or accident." Fed. R. Evid. 404(b). In short, a defendant's sexual history, at least with respect to other employees, is ordinarily discoverable in a sexual harassment suit.
24. United States v. Mandujano, 425 U.S. 564, 576 (1975) (plurality opinion).
25. ABF Freight Sys., Inc. v. NLRB, 510 U.S. 317, 323 (1994).
26. United States v. Norris, 300 U.S. 564, 574 (1937). There is occasional misunderstanding to the effect that perjury is somehow distinct from "obstruction of justice." While the crimes are distinct, they are in fact variations on a single theme: preventing a court, the parties, and the public from discovering the truth. Perjury, subornation of perjury, concealment of subpoenaed documents, and witness tampering are all forms of obstruction of justice.
27. See Eugene Lyons, Herbert Hoover: A Biography 337 (1964) (quoting Hoover).
28. U.S. Const., art. II, 7 1, cl. 8.
29. U.S. Const., art. II, 7 3; see also George Washington, Second Inaugural Address, March 4, 1793:

Previous to the execution of any official act of the President the Constitution requires an oath of office. This oath I am now about to take, and in your presence: That if it shall be found during my administration of the Government I have in any instance violated willingly or knowingly the injunctions thereof, I may (besides incurring constitutional punishment) be subject to the upbraidings of all who are now witnesses of the present solemn ceremony.

Inaugural Addresses of the Presidents of the United States, H.R. Doc. No. 82-540, at 4 (1954).
30. Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer, 343 U.S. 579, 653-54 (Jackson, J., concurring).
31. Jordan, House Testimony, 7/24/97, at 46.
32. From April through November 1994, 17 different persons or entities retained Mr. Hubbell as a consultant. In 1994, he collected $450,010 for this work. In 1995, he collected $91,750, despite beginning a 28-month prison term in August of that year.

I. Nature of President Clinton's Relationship with Monica Lewinsky

A. Introduction

This Referral presents substantial and credible information that President Clinton criminally obstructed the judicial process, first in a sexual harassment lawsuit in which he was the defendant and then in a grand jury investigation. The opening section of the Narrative provides an overview of the object of the President's cover-up, the sexual relationship between the President and Ms Lewinsky. Subsequent sections recount the evolution of the relationship chronologically, including the sexual contacts, the President's efforts to get Ms Lewinsky a job, Ms Lewinsky's subpoena in Jones v Clinton, the role of Vernon Jordan, the President's discussions with Ms Lewinsky about her affidavit and deposition, the President's deposition testimony in Jones, the President's attempts to coach a potential witness in the harassment case, the President's false and misleading statements to aides and to the American public after the Lewinsky story became public, and, finally, the President's testimony before a federal grand jury.

B. Evidence Establishing Nature of Relationship

1. Physical Evidence

Physical evidence conclusively establishes that the President and Ms Lewinsky had a sexual relationship. After reaching an immunity and cooperation agreement with the Office of the Independent Counsel on July 28, 1998, Ms Lewinsky turned over a navy blue dress that she said she had worn during a sexual encounter with the President on February 28, 1997. According to Ms Lewinsky, she noticed stains on the garment the next time she took it from her closet. From their location, she surmised that the stains were the President's semen.(1) Initial tests revealed that the stains are in fact semen.(2) Based on that result, the OIC asked the President for a blood sample.(3) After requesting and being given assurances that the OIC had an evidentiary basis for making the request, the President agreed.(4) In the White House Map Room on August 3, 1998, the White House Physician drew a vial of blood from the President in the presence of an FBI agent and an OIC attorney.(5) By conducting the two standard DNA comparison tests, the FBI Laboratory concluded that the President was the source of the DNA obtained from the dress.(6) According to the more sensitive RFLP test, the genetic markers on the semen, which match the President's DNA, are characteristic of one out of 7.87 trillion Caucasians.(7)

In addition to the dress, Ms. Lewinsky provided what she said were answering machine tapes containing brief messages from the President, as well as several gifts that the President had given her.

2. Ms. Lewinsky's Statements

Ms. Lewinsky was extensively debriefed about her relationship with the President. For the initial evaluation of her credibility, she submitted to a detailed "proffer" interview on July 27, 1998.(8) After entering into a cooperation agreement, she was questioned over the course of approximately 15 days. She also provided testimony under oath on three occasions: twice before the grand jury, and, because of the personal and sensitive nature of particular topics, once in a deposition. In addition, Ms. Lewinsky worked with prosecutors and investigators to create an 11-page chart that chronologically lists her contacts with President Clinton, including meetings, phone calls, gifts, and messages.(9) Ms. Lewinsky twice verified the accuracy of the chart under oath.(10)

In the evaluation of experienced prosecutors and investigators, Ms. Lewinsky has provided truthful information. She has not falsely inculpated the President. Harming him, she has testified, is "the last thing in the world I want to do."(11)

Moreover, the OIC's immunity and cooperation agreement with Ms. Lewinsky includes safeguards crafted to ensure that she tells the truth. Court-ordered immunity and written immunity agreements often provide that the witness can be prosecuted only for false statements made during the period of cooperation, and not for the underlying offense. The OIC's agreement goes further, providing that Ms. Lewinsky will lose her immunity altogether if the government can prove to a federal district judge – by a preponderance of the evidence, not the higher standard of beyond a reasonable doubt - - that she lied. Moreover, the agreement provides that, in the course of such a prosecution, the United States could introduce into evidence the statements made by Ms

A banner makes its point to the President in Maryland this week as other politicians were left to weigh their chances should he leave office

Save now.

Save later.

It's easy to save, and go on saving money with the Scottish Widows Credit Card. For the first 12 months there's a balance transfer rate of just 11.9% APR. And our standard rate is just 15.9% APR.

But that's not all. We also guarantee that our card will stay consistently competitive. You'll never be charged an annual fee. And you get up to 56 days' interest free credit.

For more details and an application pack, return the coupon or call 0800 783 14 14.

Transfer your balance at just 11.9% APR

Card	Annual Fee	APR	Scottish Widows First Year Saving*
Scottish Widows MasterCard	No	11.9%	N/A
Barclaycard Standard Visa	£10	22.9%	£178.48
Lloyds Classic Reserve MasterCard	£12	22.9%	£176.64
Midland Standard MasterCard	£12	21.6%	£155.28
NatWest Standard Visa	£12	21.9%	£158.88
GM Card	No	20.9%	£156.48

11.9% APR for balance transfers

15.9% APR for purchases

Please send me more information about the Scottish Widows Credit Card. Return to: Ref: WQ04
FREEPOST SEA3002, Mitre House, Kingston KT2 6BR.
BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE
Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)
Name
Address
Postcode
Telephone (Home/Work)

SCOTTISH WIDOWS

Call now for more information

0800 783 14 14

Quote Ref: WQ04

*The savings calculated assume the Cardholder transfers a balance of £2,000 within the first year of the opening of the Card Account, and maintains that balance for twelve months. The savings calculated take account of the annual fees where applied and assume that the interest rates charged remain constant throughout the twelve month period. APRs include annual fees where applied. The savings are based on the Scottish Widows MasterCard variable APR for balance transfers which is set at 4% less than the standard APR for purchases ruling from time to time during the twelve month period. All other named cards feature their standard interest rates and exclude any short term special offers. The Cardholder is required to make monthly payments within 25 days of the statement date of at least 5% of the outstanding balance specified on the statement, or £5 whichever is greater, or the full amount if less than £5. Correct interest rates as at 1.9.98. Written quotations available on request. Subject to status. Unavailable to persons under 18 years of age. APRs variable. RBS Scottish Widows Cards Ltd, Registered Office: 42 St Andrew Square, EH2 2YE. Registered in Scotland no. 164835.

Breathing Space.

(Don't take it for granted)

We don't. Help us keep Britain's breathing spaces open. Footpaths and coastline, high places, heaths and woodland. For walkers.

For over 60 years, THE RAMBLERS' lobbying and vigilance have been achieving wide-ranging rights of access to some of our most beautiful countryside.

Go for a walk. Take a breather from our crowded world. Think about the future; invest in THE RAMBLERS.

Join us.

A modest subscription brings you – FREE – the essential Yearbook, full of outdoor information (over 300 pages, over 3000 places to stay, £4.99 in bookshops); the quarterly magazine, Rambling Today; membership of one of our 400 local groups. Many outdoor equipment shops offer discounts.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms
Address
Postcode Date of birth
Tick box for membership type required
☐ Ordinary £17 ☐ Reduced* £8.50
☐ Family/Joint £21 ☐ Joint reduced* £10.50
(for two adults at same address)
*Under 18/students/retired/disabled/unwaged
Donation £_____ I enclose £_____
☐ We occasionally exchange names (for one once only) with other organisations which may interest you. Tick if you would prefer to be excluded.

Registered Charity No.306080

Working for walkers

1-5 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2XX. Tel: 0171 339 8500 TM34

هكذا من الأصل

THE STARR REPORT

'He used to lean against a door to ease his back'

Lewinsky during her cooperation. Since Ms. Lewinsky acknowledged in her proffer interview and in debriefings that she violated the law, she has a strong incentive to tell the truth: If she did not, it would be relatively straightforward to void the immunity agreement and prosecute her, using her own admissions against her.

3. Ms. Lewinsky's Confidants

Between 1995 and 1998, Ms. Lewinsky confided in 11 people about her relationship with the President. All have been questioned by the OIC, most before a federal grand jury: Andrew Bleiler, Catherine Allday Davis, Neysa Erbland, Kathleen Estep, Deborah Finerman, Dr. Irene Kassorla, Marcia Lewis, Ashley Raines, Linda Tripp, Natalie Ungvari, and Dale Young.(12) Ms. Lewinsky told most of these confidants about events in her relationship with the President as they occurred, sometimes in considerable detail.

Some of Ms. Lewinsky's statements about the relationship were contemporaneously memorialized. These include deleted email recovered from her home computer and her Pentagon computer, email messages retained by two of the recipients, tape recordings of some of Ms. Lewinsky's conversations with Ms. Tripp, and notes taken by Ms. Tripp during some of their conversations. The Tripp notes, which have been extensively corroborated, refer specifically to places, dates, and times of physical contacts between the President and Ms. Lewinsky.(13)

Everyone in whom Ms. Lewinsky confided in detail believed she was telling the truth about her relationship with the President. Ms. Lewinsky told her psychologist, Dr. Irene Kassorla, about the affair shortly after it began. Thereafter, she related details of sexual encounters soon after they occurred (sometimes calling from her White House office).(14) Ms. Lewinsky showed no indications of delusional thinking, according to Dr. Kassorla, and Dr. Kassorla had no doubts whatsoever about the truth of what Ms. Lewinsky told her.(15) Ms. Lewinsky's friend Catherine Allday Davis testified that she believed Ms. Lewinsky's accounts of the sexual relationship with the President because "I trusted in the way she had confided in me on other things in her life. . . . I just trusted the relationship, so I trusted her."(16) Dale Young, a friend in whom Ms. Lewinsky confided starting in mid-1996, testified:

[I]f she was going to lie to me, she would have said to me, "Oh, he calls me all the time. He does wonderful things. He can't wait to see me." . . . [S]he would have embellished the story. You know, she wouldn't be telling me, "He told me he'd call me, I waited home all weekend and I didn't do anything and he didn't call and then he didn't call for two weeks."(17)

4. Documents

In addition to her remarks and email to friends, Ms. Lewinsky wrote a number of documents, including letters and draft letters to the President. Among these documents are (i) papers found in a consensual search of her apartment; (ii) papers that Ms. Lewinsky turned over pursuant to her cooperation agreement, including a calendar with dates circled when she met or talked by telephone with the President in 1996 and 1997; and (iii) files recovered from Ms. Lewinsky's computers at home and at the Pentagon.

5. Consistency and Corroboration

The details of Ms. Lewinsky's many statements have been checked, cross-checked, and corroborated. When negotiations with Ms. Lewinsky in January and February 1998 did not culminate in an agreement, the OIC proceeded with a comprehensive investigation, which generated a great deal of probative evidence.

In July and August 1998, circumstances brought more direct and compelling evidence to the investigation. After the courts rejected a novel privilege claim, Secret Service officers and agents testified about their observations of the President and Ms. Lewinsky in the White House. Ms. Lewinsky agreed to submit to a proffer interview (previous negotiations had deadlocked over her refusal to do so), and, after assessing her credibility in that session, the OIC entered into a cooperation agreement with her. Pursuant to the cooperation agreement, Ms. Lewinsky turned over the dress that proved to bear traces of the President's semen. And the President, who had spurned six invitations to testify, finally agreed to provide his account to the grand jury. In that sworn testimony, he acknowledged "inappropriate intimate contact" with Ms. Lewinsky.

Because of the fashion in which the investigation had unfolded, in sum, a massive quantity of evidence was available to test and verify Ms. Lewinsky's statements during her proffer interview and her later cooperation. Consequently, Ms. Lewinsky's statements have been corroborated to a remarkable degree. Her detailed statements to the grand jury and the OIC in 1998 are consistent with statements to her confidants dating back to 1995, documents that she created, and physical evidence.(18) Moreover, her accounts generally match the testimony of White House staff members; the testimony of Secret Service agents and officers; and White House records showing Ms. Lewinsky's entries and exits, the President's whereabouts, and the President's telephone calls.

C. Sexual Contacts

1. The President's Accounts

a. Jones Testimony

In the Jones deposition on January 17, 1998, the President denied having had "a sexual affair," "sexual relations," or "a sexual relationship" with Ms. Lewinsky.(19) He noted that "[t]here are no curtains on the Oval Office, there are no curtains on my private office, there are no curtains or blinds that can close [on] the windows in my private dining room," and added: "I have done everything I could to avoid the kind of questions you are asking me here today. . . ."(20)

During the deposition, the President's attorney, Robert Bennett, sought to limit questioning about Ms. Lewinsky. Mr. Bennett told Judge Susan Webber Wright that Ms. Lewinsky had executed "an affidavit which [Ms. Jones's lawyers] are in possession of saying that there is absolutely no sex of any kind in any manner, shape or form, with President Clinton." In a subsequent colloquy with Judge Wright, Mr. Bennett declared that as a resuh of "preparation of [President Clinton] for this deposition, the witness is fully aware of Ms. Lewinsky's affidavit."(21) The President did not dispute his legal representative's assertion that the President and Ms. Lewinsky had had "absolutely no sex of any kind in any manner, shape or form," nor did he dispute the implication that Ms. Lewinsky's affidavit, in denying "a sexual relationship," meant that there was "absolutely no sex of any kind in any manner, shape or form." In subsequent questioning by his attorney, President Clinton testified under oath that Ms. Lewinsky's affidavit was "absolutely true."(22)

b. Grand Jury Testimony

Testifying before the grand jury on August 17, 1998, seven months after his Jones deposition, the President acknowledged "inappropriate intimate contact" with Ms. Lewinsky but maintained that his January deposition testimony was accurate.(23) In his account, "what began as a friendship [with Ms. Lewinsky] came to include this conduct."(24) He said he remembered "meeting her, or having my first real conversation with her during the government shutdown in November of '95." According to the President, the inappropriate contact occurred later (after Ms. Lewinsky's internship had ended), "in early 1996 and once in early 1997."(25)

The President refused to answer quesuons about the precise nature of his intimate contacts with Ms. Lewinsky, but he did explain his earlier denials.(26) As to his denial in the Jones deposition that he and Ms. Lewinsky had had a "sexual relationship," the President maintained that there can be no sexual relationship without sexual intercourse, regardless of what other sexual activities may transpire. He stated that "most ordinary Americans" would embrace this distinction.(27)

The President also maintained that none of his sexual contacts with Ms. Lewinsky constituted "sexual relations" within a specific definition used in the Jones deposition.(28) Under that definition:

[A] person engages in "sexual relations" when the person knowingly engages in or causes – (1) contact with the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks of any person with an intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person . . . . "Contact" means intentional touching, either directly or through clothing.(29)

According to what the President testified was his understanding, this definition "covers contact by the person being deposed with the enumerated areas, if the contact is done with an intent to arouse or gratify," but it does not cover oral sex performed on the person being deposed.(30)

He testified:

[I]f the deponent is the person who has oral sex performed on him, then the contact is with – not with anything on that list, but with the lips of another person. It seems to be self-evident that that's what it is. . . . Let me remind you, sir, I read this carefully.(31)

In the President's view, "any person, reasonable person" would recognize that oral sex performed on the deponent falls outside the definition.(32) If Ms. Lewinsky performed oral sex on the President, then – under this interpretation – she engaged in sexual relations but he did not. The President refused to answer whether Ms. Lewinsky in fact had performed oral sex on him.(33) He did testify that direct contact with Ms. Lewinsky's breasts or genitalia would fall within the definition, and he denied having had any such contact.(34)

2. Ms. Lewinsky's Account

In his grand jury testimony, the President relied heavily on a particular interpretation of "sexual relations" as defined in the Jones deposition. Beyond insisting that his conduct did not fall within the Jones definition, he refused to answer questions about the nature of his physical contact with Ms. Lewinsky, thus placing the grand jury in the position of having to accept his conclusion without being able to explore the underlying facts. This strategy – evidently an effort to account for possible traces of the President's semen on Ms. Lewinsky's clothing without undermining his position that he did not lie in the Jones deposition – mandates that this Referral set forth evidence of an explicit nature that otherwise would be omitted.

In light of the President's testimony, Ms. Lewinsky's accounts of their sexual encounters are indispensable for two reasons. First, the detail and consistency of these accounts tend to bolster Ms. Lewinsky's credibility. Second, and particularly important, Ms. Lewinsky contradicts the President on a key issue. According to Ms. Lewinsky, the President touched her breasts and genitalia – which means that his conduct met the Jones definition of sexual relations even under his theory. On these maners, the evidence of the President's perjury cannot be presented without specific, explicit, and possibly offensive descriptions of sexual encounters.

According to Ms. Lewinsky, she and the President had ten sexual encounters, eight while she worked at the White House and two thereafter.(35) The sexual encounters generally occurred in or near the private study off the Oval Office – most often in the windowless hallway outside the study.(36) During many of their sexual encounters, the President stood leaning against the doorway of the bathroom across from the study, which, he told Ms. Lewinsky, eased his sore back.(37)

Ms. Lewinsky testified that her physical relationship with the President included oral sex but not sexual intercourse.(38) According to Ms. Lewinsky, she performed oral sex on the President; he never performed oral sex on her.(39) Initially, according to Ms. Lewinsky, the President would not let her perform oral sex to completion. In Ms. Lewinsky's understanding, his refusal was related to "trust and not knowing me well enough."(40) During their last two sexual encounters, both in 1997, he did ejaculate.(41)

According to Ms. Lewinsky, she performed oral sex on the President on nine occasions. On all nine of those occasions, the President fondled and kissed her bare breasts. He touched her genitals, both through her underwear and directly, bringing her to orgasm on two occasions. On one occasion, the President inserted a cigar into her vagina. On another occasion, she and the President had brief genital-to-genital contact.(42)

Whereas the President testified that "what began as a friendship came to include [intimate contact]," Ms. Lewinsky explained that the relationship moved in the opposite direction: "[T]he emotional and friendship aspects . . . developed after the beginning of our sexual relationship."(43)

D. Emotional Attachment

As the relationship developed over time, Ms. Lewinsky grew emotionally anached to President Clinton. She testified: "I never expected to fall in love with the President. I was surprised that I did."(44) Ms. Lewinsky told him of her feelings.(45) At times, she believed that he loved her too.(46) They were physically affectionate: "A lot of hugging, holding hands sometimes. He always used to push the hair out of my face."(47) She called him "Handsome"; on occasion, he called her "Sweetie," "Baby," or sometimes "Dear."(48) He told her that he enjoyed talking to her – she recalled his saying that the two of them were "emotive and full of fire," and she made him feel young.(50) He said he wished he could spend more time with her.(51)

Ms. Lewinsky told confidants of the emotional underpinnings of the relationship as it evolved. According to her mother, Marcia Lewis, the President once told Ms. Lewinsky that she "had been hurt a lot or something by different men and that he would be her friend or he would help her, not hurt her."(52)

The report continues.

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

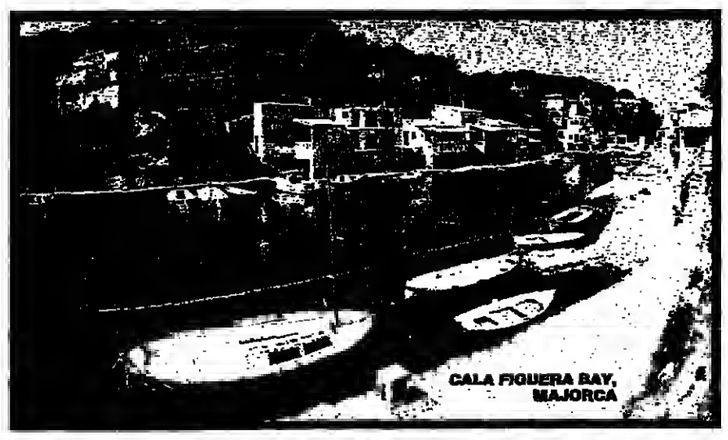
GREAT easyJet FLIGHTS OFFER

12 EUROPEAN CITIES FROM JUST £34 RETURN

- **Winter ski: London-Geneva £51.70 return**
- **City breaks: Barcelona or Madrid £39 return**
- **UK breaks: £34 return from Scotland to London**

There is still time to take advantage of incredible savings on return flights to 12 European cities for under £60 with easyJet if you collect tokens every day (including one in tomorrow's Sunday Times) until October 3. This fantastic offer is for up to two people travelling together and you can go between October 25, 1998 and March 24, 1999, except Madrid where offer flights begin on January 6. The exclusion dates will be published again with the full terms and conditions on Monday. All prices quoted are single or return fares per person and include UK and foreign airport taxes.

Look out for great savings on car hire, travel insurance and hotels. Plus you can get a reduction of £11.90 with Thameslink trains to Luton airport. See full details of all easyExtras on Tuesday September 29.


CALA FIGUERA BAY, MAJORCA

HOW TO TAKE UP THE OFFER

- Collect 21 differently numbered tokens, 18 from *The Times* and three from *The Sunday Times*.
- 28 tokens in total will appear in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* until October 3 1998.
- Attach your tokens to the booking validation form, right. You will need to present these when you check in for your outward journey.
- easyJet will not accept bookings or inquiries relating to this promotion before September 29 under any circumstances.

easyJet is a ticketless airline. Once your booking has been processed you will be issued with a confirmation number which is all you require, along with your booking validation form and tokens, and passport for international travel.

CITY CENTRE, EDINBURGH

BOOKING OPENS SEPTEMBER 29

- Book by telephone or via the Internet from Tuesday September 29, after 3pm, until Thursday October 8, 1998.
- One set of 21 differently numbered tokens, 18 from *The Times* and three from *The Sunday Times*, entitles you to book flights for up to two people travelling together either on a single or return journey.
- Each household is allowed to book up to two journeys under this offer. Each journey requires a separate set of 21 differently numbered tokens.
- This offer is subject to availabilty.

THE TIMES/EASYJET VALIDATION FORM

Present this form, with 21 differently numbered tokens attached, when you check in for your epecial offer easyJet flight. Bookings must be made by Thursday October 8, 1998.

Title ..... Initials ..... Surname .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode ..... Day tel .....

Confirmation number .....

1. On which days do you usually buy *The Times*?
Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday ☐ Thursday ☐ Friday ☐
Saturday ☐
Don't usually buy *The Times* ☐
2. Which other national daily newspaper(s) do you buy at least once a week?
.....
3. Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy almost always (3-4 copies per month)?
.....
4. Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy quite often (1-2 copies per month)?
.....

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by *The Times*, please tick ☐

CHANGING TIMES

Sacrebleu! Proust in striptease?

Ben Macintyre sees the sense of reading a classic in cartoon captions

Marcel Proust's seven-volume masterwork, *A la Recherche du Temps Perdu*, is the greatest novel written in French, and arguably any other language, this century. It is a sacred text, an unparalleled feat of imagination, a colossal yet subtle fictional edifice exploring feeling, time, thought, art and memory.

It is also, as of last week, a best-selling French comic-strip drawn by an advertising agency artist named Stéphane Heuet. The publication of *Combray*, the first volume of the cartoon Proust, has naturally occasioned some of the rudest notices ever written in French, and arguably any other language.

Here follows a selection of words from a single, enraged review under the title "Marcel is being murdered!" by *Le Figaro* critic Hervé de Sainte-Hilaire: assassination, blasphemy, shocking, prodigiously inane, dreadful, graceless, superficial, cruelty, catastrophic, horrible, confused, threatening etc.

Combray can certainly jar the unwary reader who has even a cursory acquaintance with the real Proust. Take the "madeleine moment", as depicted by Heuet. Image 1: man with moustache, centre-parting, heavy eyelids and wing-collar prepares to sip lime-blossom tea. A bubble appears from his mouth: "Tiens! Une madeleine?" Image 2: large question mark appears by man's right ear, caption reads: "A delicious pleasure invaded my senses, something isolated, with no suggestion of its cause." Image 3: madeleine is dipped in tea, caption reads: "I felt it was linked to the taste of the tea and cake, but went infinitely beyond it".

So that's it, the greatest evocation of memory-taste association in literature condensed to a nice cuppa and a question-mark.

It is, of course, impossible to turn a supreme work of literature into a comic strip without doing serious violence to the original, but what seems to have ignited the wrath of de Sainte-Hilaire and others is that anyone should be presumptuous enough to try. This is both unfair and unrealistic. There are good adaptations of great art and some notably bad ones; there are effective and entertaining ways of popularising genius, and other methods that are commercial and crass.

What Heuet has produced is not Proust, but then it is not *Asterix* either. The author has spent the past two years preparing the project, reading and rereading the original, sketching the landscapes and architecture around Illiers-Combray, researching the clothes of the period and visiting the various sites of Proust's odd life. Ten more volumes will follow this, one a year, and almost every word in them will have been written by Proust.

Once one gets over the jolt of seeing Proust's fabulously intricate sentences boiled down to cartoon captions, the result is neither shocking nor horrible. Parts are rather charming, and Heuet has even managed to capture some of Proust's humour. Proust has already been turned into a film and a radio play, a set of T-shirts, a cookbook, a restaurant, several walking tours and a witty self-help book by Alain de Botton, offering Proust's "advice" on subjects ranging from love to looking at paintings. Every attempt to understand Proust involves a reduction and adaptation, some more radical than others.

Heuet's comic-strip is not intended for people who have read Proust, but for those who have not and who might, as a result, feel moved to do so. *A la Recheche du Temps Perdu* is undeniably daunting. Alongside Stephen Hawking and James Joyce, the work of Proust has been gingerly picked up, started and then guiltily abandoned by millions, some of whom are no doubt reading this and already huffing over the indignity of turning Proust into a comic-strip.

Some very brilliant people could not see the point of Proust on a first reading, such as André Gide, who later heartily regretted it. Jacques Madeleine, the aptly named reader for the publisher Fasquelle, declared after 712 pages that he had not "a single clue of what this is about. What is the point of all this? What does it all mean?"

The difficulty of Proust has made him a weapon of snobbery. "Rock stars and footballers are supposed to be *idiots savants*. We're not supposed to have read Proust," said Sting in a recent interview. Many are put off Proust before they start, and are thus denied one of the greatest pleasures of literacy.

Heuet's attackers insist that by simplifying, visualising and truncating Proust he is making this most enigmatic work explicit and mundane, convincing lazy readers that they have "done Proust" when they have done nothing of the sort. But Heuet argues: "There are millions of people who die without ever experiencing the greatness of this work because they can't get past the first 50 pages."

Some 15,000 copies of the first volume of *A la Recherche du Temps Perdu* are still bought every year in France. The new cartoon version has already sold out its first print-run of 12,000 copies. Many of the buyers are children or teenagers, according to the publishers, and some will go on to read the original. When the *Hunchback of Notre-Dame* was turned into a Disney animated cartoon, critics bemoaned the desecration of a classic, but sales of Victor Hugo's novel, largely unread until then, boomed.

Proust would doubtless have resented seeing his life's work reduced to one-dimensional images, his 3,000 pages of beautifully wrought prose hacked into lumps, but the comic-strip might also have appealed to his sense of the ridiculous. He understood and defined how the imagination could expand infinitely from a simple image, taste or smell. He knew the most unlikely reading-matter could be inspirational, the start of an exciting mental journey. This was a man who read train timetables in bed, "to imagine himself alighting from the train on an autumn evening".

Perhaps a simplistic comic-strip accompanied by even mere snippets of the writer's prose might, for some, be the start rather than the end of a journey into Proust.

Nature Notes is on page 32.

Lying in State

We pillory the private deceits instead of the public failings of politicians

Simon Jenkins

A nuclear power wanders leaderless. Its President appears slow and puffy-eyed on television, frantic to save himself from impeachment. The Constitution is tested to the limit. Dark forces of reaction manipulate the nation's assembly. Nobody has a clue what is going to happen. For Russia at the start of the week read America at the end.

Mother Russia will muddle through, whatever the boyars' plot in Moscow. Yesterday's astonishing events in Washington are more dangerous. The American Constitution is the proxy constitution to the world. Its leader embodies global law and order. The United Nations and Nato are pawns in his hand. The last three American Presidents have all unleashed massive violence in asserting their authority, often without warning, consultation or legitimation. Their might is unchecked by countervailing power, on a scale unknown in history.

As of this morning, the majority of Americans continue to treat Bill Clinton the holder of the office of President as distinct from Bill Clinton the man. As President, he still holds their respect, as he does that of the rest of the world. He has conducted America's economic diplomacy with prudence. He has struggled to uphold freedom wherever he has seen it threatened. I am not aware that Mr Clinton has broken treaties or gone back on promises. In Northern Ireland his offers of help have been sincere. He cannot be called a bad President.

Yet Mr Clinton the President is facing a constitutional coup at the hands of Mr Clinton the sex addict. To adapt the Nixonian phrase, he has given his foes the sword. These foes make no allegation of faulty statesmanship. No charges are directed at Mr Clinton's programme, public support for which is higher than for any second-term President in modern times. Every one of yesterday's 11 charges stems from the most intimate aspect of the President's private life, his sexual behaviour. The scene is the classic nightmare. The President escapes into insincerity, then into half-truth. He stumbles into half-lie, is caught by perjury, falls foul of subpoena and collapses into conspiracy. It may have been "only a baby sin, Your Reverence". But the Devil has gone to war for less.

I do not care whether Bill Clinton the man is finally brought down by the prurient Mr Starr. He clearly suffers from a syndrome common to men in power, an addiction to women who also suffer an addiction to power. To seize an initial lie about his sex life to trap him on a escalator of mendacity does not require much ingenuity. The trick is familiar to any tabloid journalist or tort lawyer. In this league, many are called but few are fallen. Mr Clinton had bad luck.

What we should care about is the ease with which a President can have the trick played on him. This week's events have all the qualities of a Wild West gunfight. The bone of contention, some row over a woman, has long been left behind with the smashed bottles in the saloon. Any sense of proportion has vanished. All that now matters is who draws fastest and shoots straight. This is trial by combat, outlawed in the 13th century but surviving in that reliquary of politics, the American Constitution. God stands with whoever is victor. The process is claimed as constitutional, but every well-tooled coup claims that.

The wisest comment on the Starr inquiry comes from congresswoman Elizabeth Holtzman, who wrote the new Independent Counsel Act after Watergate. She points out that it was designed to help Congress when the President tried to impede his impeachment on a charge of "treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanours". She wrote in last month's *New York Times*, "I never dreamed that a special prosecutor would be using his enormous powers to investigate accusations about a President's private (and legal) sexual conduct." Mr Starr had taken an accusation that Mr Clinton had lied about his sex life in a civil case unrelated to the Whitewater inquiry, and used it to depict the President as a congenital liar. His aim was to revive the ailing Whitewater inquiry. Mr Starr was not so much investigating a "high crime" as behaving as an *agent provocateur*, "manufacturing the circumstances" in which his victim might commit an offence.

I am no particular admirer of Mr Clinton or his claque. But the process to which he has been subjected seems as much an offence against justice as his own frantic attempt to stave off his tormentors. Not allowing him to see the evidence against him before the grand jury was astonishing. Mr Clinton's friends, secretaries, bodyguards and even doorman were ordered to be witnesses against their boss. No private advice or conversation could be regarded as confidential. The ease with which American law slides into McCarthyism is truly frightening. As the legal philosopher, Thomas Nagel, wrote in the *TLS* last month, privacy in human relations at work as well as home is essential "to permit creatures as complex as ourselves to interact without constant social breakdown". The present cult of letting it all hang out, indeed putting it all on the Internet, strips public figures of all contact with their inner selves and puts even the most private faults in the pillory. The Americans are turning their Presidents and their advisers into Orwellian automatons.

Such fault-exaggeration could be applied, with enough money and legal artifice, to most people in public life. Nobody achieves high office without cutting corners, mildly deceiving family, friends and public, telling the odd fib in the rough and tumble of cross-questioning. Without such deceits, newspapers would go bankrupt and biographers starve. Few may indulge in the exotic activities alleged of Mr Clinton and Ms Lewinsky, though from what we know of Roosevelt and Kennedy, they were not alone.

"Lies" are told daily in the dealings of government, though we now call them spin. They are excused in matters of State, largely because such political mendacity is, like drug abuse, so prevalent as to be not worth wasting police time. Democracies are using their leaders' private lives as proxy for political competence. The most common method is to induce ambitious but scorned women to turn State's evidence, in Ms Lewinsky's case with impunity and vast potential reward. The agency in Britain is journalism, in America the law. How can we trust a man who lies to his wife, we ask. How can we put the safety of our families in his hands?

The answer is that we do, constantly. We have done so throughout history, and have probably been governed the better for it. We pry into such deceits because we are simply too lazy to practise the more complicated art of politics. Rather than counter argument with argument, we invite a public figure to repeat his private lies to the nation. We then catch him out, separate him from the herd and set the hounds on him. Sex is an easier stick with which to beat a President than a failure to reform Medicare or limit the money supply.

In the 1960s, Macmillan told Kennedy (whom Mr Starr would have crucified) that he saw Europe as Athens to America's Rome. A mighty empire was spreading across the world, a force for freedom and justice amid order. But as this new Rome projected its power, it should respect Europe's "civilising culture", as the Romans respected the culture of Athens. Yesterday this new Rome went spectacularly Greek. A strong emperor would have flicked aside the Lewinsky nonsense. He would have demanded the judgment of the world on peace in the Middle East or economic recovery or global warming. Instead, Mr Clinton is locked into a script by Sophocles. A great house is brought down by a beautiful woman and temptuous Furies. Everyone is immolated, while the gods look on and sneer.

When the free world next confronts the forces of evil and calls for American leadership, it will come shackled to an impeachment lawyer, trailing behind and asking, "Did you really kiss her that night? Come on, come on, tell us a lie."

The cost of freeing a killer

Simon Barnes says one whale isn't worth it

My heart leaps up when I behold a cetacean in the sky. Whose could not? One of my great wildlife sightings of the year, of a lifetime: a member of that endangered species, the Ganges river dolphin, leaping clear of the water — one of those white and spooky crookback beasts that live blind lives in the mud and the murk. Or the heartlift when I met grey whales on the Californian coast, when the great fork of the tail flukes broke the surface. You'd have to be less than human to fail to respond. Me, I cheered.

So why, then, do I feel such exasperation at the current goggle-eyed fascination with the story of Keiko the killer whale? I have spent a lot of time and energy trying to persuade people that saving animals is a good idea. Why am I so grumpy about saving Keiko?

I should be glad that the film *Free Willy* has stirred so many hearts. The animal in question, whether you call it an orca or a killer whale, is not the most cuddleable beast. If you saw David Attenborough's *The Trials of Life* you will remember — could hardly forget — the killer whales beaching themselves in a seal colony like berserk landing craft.

But *Free Willy* encouraged people to take the killers to their hearts: and the subsequent story of the non-fictional whale's plight touched their hearts yet again. Which is all very nice, really, and they have coughed up £7.5 million to take Keiko back to Iceland and to release him into the seas of his birth.

There is a confusion here, or a perhaps a collision between the noons of animal welfare and conservation. I am a great supporter of both, as it happens. The two things are hardly incompatible. But all the same: £7.5 million. You could use that money to secure forever, say, the Mafia Marine Reserve in Tanzania, with its dugong, turtles, seabirds and complex coral and mangrove ecologies. Or you could spend it here, to fund for five years the entire Biodiversity Action Plan, joint brainwave of government and conservation groups. You could in one fell swoop arrest the decline of turtle dove and bullfinch, and at the same time safeguard plants like purple ramping fumitory and greater water parnsip. But they have yet to make a sexy movie about purple ramping fumitory.

Or if you want to use the money especially for whales, then you must invest in even more boring, even less sexy things — such as the World Wide Fund for Nature's work with the International Whaling Commission. Protection from casual slaughter is the best thing we can do for whales: but it makes a terrible movie. Just people in suits squabbling. A lot of conservation is like that. Or invest in the difficult science connected with what conservationists call Persistent Organic Pollution, which make whales sterile. Not the material for a high-class weepy of a movie I grant you, but quite useful in the saving of actual whales.

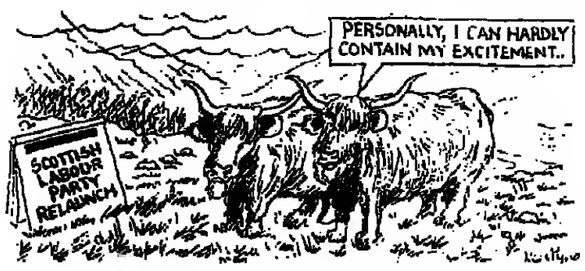
My heart is in conservation all right. But there is a very great difference between sentiment and sentimentality. What we have with Keiko is a classic case of devotion worthy of a better cause. Oh, it's great that people feel so strongly about this fine, this totemic animal. But really — £7.5 million. What about the purple ramping fumitory, that's what I say.

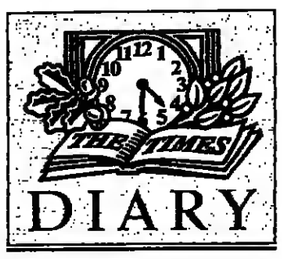
Secret service?

WHAT mysterious circles Alan Duncan snakes around. My spook friends inform me that the diminutive Conservative rottweiler MP passed through the portals of MI5 earlier this week on a matter of national import. The former spin-doctor to William Hague was thought to operate for a Controller known as W. (operational name: Widdecombe) in his official capacity as Shadow Health spokesman. But does Duncan (below right) serve two masters? What was the sensitive business which detained him on Monday afternoon? "I am unable to confirm any such report," he tells me uneasily. Was he casting a glance over a private file of his lurid past as a playboy international oil trader?

Or explaining his previous sympathy for decriminalising hard drugs? "No comment." Is he on some James Bond-type mission to save the Western world? "You are straying into the realms of fantasy. Enjoy it," he says enticingly.

Rupert Allason, Duncan's former colleague who disgorges spy novels under the name Nigel West, is intrigued: "It is extraordinary for an MP who is merely an Opposition spokesman to meet MI5. If any surreptitious exchange of information was taking place it would not happen on official property. Nor would he be entitled to see his personal file. He could easily say what it was all about." Meet me in the underground car park at Diary Towers, Alan, and make a clean breast of it for the good of the nation.





JASPER GERARD

● *CONGRATULATIONS to a Virginia Nimarkoh, a creative type, who has pocketed a £1,500 pressie from the London Arts Board for a video-camera to take holiday snaps. Oh, Nimarkoh is also a "visual arts assessor" for the board.*

Stepping out

THE indomitable Michael Foot has been reunited with his best friend. After suffering a nasty fall (off a bus), Foot's injuries seemed too serious for him to walk Dizzy, his beloved dog named after Disraeli, over Hampstead Heath. Friends urged the 85-year-old to leave the mutt at a retirement home in Norfolk. Foot is now back with Dizzy, walking at dawn. "He is a phenomenon," says a friend. "He only rests when he is in hospital."

● *POETS Laureate are rare in soccer, but in Gary Lineker I thought I detected gentle cognitive activity. Launching his* Favourite Football Stories, *he left a different impression. "I don't have the imagination to write a book," he said. One story not included is how Bobby Robson calmed England's penalty-takers during the 1990 World Cup against Germany. "We had four volunteers and Chris Waddle. Bobby's advice? 'Don't let me down — 30 million are watching."*

All revealed

IMAGINE the surprise of the chalk-striped, effete Jamie Palumbo when he picked up *Ministry* magazine, spin-off from his nightclub. There, semi-naked, was "Sienna" (below), a London model, describing her ideal man as "one with gappy teeth and a boxer's pummelled nose". Not madly Jamie.

● *NEW Labour is taking this makeover business too far. Now Charlie Whelan, Gordon Brown's laddish spin-doctor, has weaned himself off pies and fags at a secret Umbrian health farm and returned to the Red Lion a svelt advert for clean living. "I had a month of tennis and swimming. I've lost well over a stone," he says, nursing a spritzer.*

Soiled goods

THE Prince of Wales will have to carry the royal pooper-scooper when he next hunts with the Beaufort. Cotswold District Council has adopted a bylaw under which the Master of the Hunt will be fined up to £1,000 for each unattended piece of hound deposit. Captain Ian Farquar, the Master, understands pollution. He is charged with soiling a river in which thousands of protected crayfish perished.

● *AS AMERICA debated Kenneth Starr's salacious report about the President on the Internet, senators were discussing "legislative proposals to protect children from inappropriate material" on the Net.*

Weasel words

IN TRUE American tradition, Clinton's apologia has spawned an encore book. *The Clinton Enigma: A Four-and-a-Half Minute Speech Reveals This President's Entire Life* is by David Maraniss, a Pulitzer prizewinner. "It deconstructs every sentence in his 540-word speech, showing how it sprang from his history. I wanted to expurgate Clinton from my life." I'm beginning to feel sorry for the President.

VIVIENNE WESTWOOD is a fine actress, according to her biographer. Jane Mulvagh, who was asked to write the forthcoming book by the couturière but has since been disowned, says: "It dawned on me that, despite her public persona, she was not an eccentric, but had quite determinedly cultivated that reputation." All, says Mulvagh, to ape Westwood's equally barmy former lover, Malcolm McLaren, who she would coo over "like a love-struck teenager" (he was manager of that easy listening combo, the Sex Pistols).

Westwood is married to Andreas Kronthaler — "half her age" — because "for all her barricade agitprop and peculiar modernity she is, at heart, a bitter romantic". The writer-muse relationship worsened: "Vivienne is not a woman to nurture lasting ties with her own sex," says Mulvagh, who has produced a distinctly unofficial study. "She has crushes that wane, and while she is attracted to assertive women, she soon tires of their independence."

It all sounds rather stifling. "She spurned her young son's Mother's Day flowers ('I hate daffodils'), and I felt wounded by her coldness." So how has the subject reacted? "She wants it to be known," I am told, "that she asked Jane not to write the book."

هكذا من الأصل

HOW AMERICA GOT HERE

Private life, public property and the Clinton presidency

An extraordinary week in Washington has ended at a new level of melodrama. Scenes that most analysts thought would take months to move have suddenly been shifted in a matter of days. Senator Joseph Lieberman's speech last Thursday accelerated the plot in a manner which he could not have expected or even intended. Kenneth Starr then provided the coup *de théâtre* through the unexpected release of his report. Americans have now been informed, in the most public fashion possible, of the case against their chief executive.

The duration and ultimate outcome of this saga remain unpredictable. Mr Clinton did his best to save his presidency yesterday with a moving speech at a prayer breakfast with religious leaders. He apologised to Monica Lewinsky and her family. He bared his own "broken spirit" before his fellow countrymen. If he had offered the same address on August 17, his position today would be stronger. But he still refuses to concede that his testimony to two grand juries was untruthful. "Legally accurate" is still his claim. He wants forgiveness but remains unwilling to acknowledge perjury.

It is almost impossible not to have some sympathy for Mr Clinton. A simple sexual affair, of an undoubtedly consensual character, spiralled out of his control. It seems that panic set in, as it has with others in a similar situation, and led him to take actions that drew him into political quicksand. Many within the US, and especially outside its borders, will ask how adultery managed to transform itself into an affront to the US Constitution. Mr Clinton will do his best to fan those doubts in the difficult days ahead.

If the President is a "victim", it is of forces that have otherwise shaped his progress. The revolution in the role of women in America has raised the profiles of sexual exploitation and sexual harassment. Its other aspects — defence of abortion rights and the demand for decent childcare facilities — have proved invaluable to Mr Clinton. The vast expansion and intrusive nature of the American media have forced the President's sexual conduct into every American household. But no public figure has benefited more from modern television, until now, than Mr Clinton.

This story has evolved into one concerned with character and credibility. Mr Clinton, who knew that he was on licence with his electorate, has proved himself a repeat offender. His unwillingness to accept full responsibility for his actions, except when cornered, has reflected badly on him. The constant use of implausible legal language rather than commonsense vocabulary has sharpened mistrust in him. Above all else, especially for Democrats, there is the fear that even more damaging information — on Whitewater or campaign finance abuse — still lurks under the surface.

The President has an enormous task ahead. He has to persuade Congress and his country that the charges against him are excessive, that there are no more shocks to come, and that he has really changed. The fundamental issue remains not, however, whether Mr Clinton's broken spirit can be healed but whether his own shattered presidency can be pieced together. This question, as much as anything that Mr Starr has uncovered, will structure debate in Washington in what will be another exceptionally dramatic week.

ALZHEIMER'S DARKNESS

Iris Murdoch's inspirational world of shadows

The place where we live is inside our skull. The world outside provides the scenery and the action, but the play is meaningless until it is shaped by the private chorus of past experiences held within. This chorus is uniquely ours, for nobody has shared the life-history that has created it. The task of creative writers is to make the chorus sing, not for their private enjoyment alone but for everybody.

Death brings the body to an end but the death of memory is in some ways crueller: it leaves the body alive without one of the spirits that animates it. In the condition once called dementia, now termed Alzheimer's disease, the victim is stripped of memory and personality, to the horror and despair of those nearest them. It is a process all too familiar to millions of families; there are at least 600,000 victims of Alzheimer's in Britain, four million in the US, six million in the European Union. As the population ages, the numbers are expected to double by 2030.

Patients with Alzheimer's cannot speak for themselves, even if they are Iris Murdoch, who in her succession of beautifully crafted novels truly made her chorus sing. Her disease first became apparent in 1994, the year before her final novel, *Jackson's Dilemma*, was published. On a visit to Israel she took part in a discussion about her novels, but was lost for words. The chairman became solicitous, the audience embarrassed, but the author herself did not realise anything was amiss. Alzheimer's had crept up on her like an insidious fog, barely noticeable until everything around had disappeared.

The description comes from Iris Murdoch's husband, the academic, novelist and critic John Bayley, who has written an extraordinary account of her illness which will be published in *The Times* next week. He makes the descent into dementia doubly touching by the skill with which he captures the personality of the young woman he first fell in love with nearly half a century ago, "a wonderful and solitary being" he first saw riding by on her bicycle from his Oxford college window. She was a philosopher who had already written her first novel, luminously intelligent and with a great gift for friendship. Today, reason gone, one of her greatest pleasures is watching the Teletubbies.

Nobody knows how aware Alzheimer victims are of their condition, and whether they, too, despair of what they have become. But since she fell ill, Iris Murdoch has more than once spoken of "sailing into the darkness", seeming to convey a terrible lucidity about what is going on. She cannot form coherent sentences, has no idea she has written 27 novels as well as books on philosophy, or that she has become a Dame of the British Empire. So it seems unlikely that this flash of lucidity reflects an inner despair.

What chances are there that scientific medicine can lighten that darkness? For Iris Murdoch, it is certainly too late, as her brain is damaged beyond repair. But Alzheimer's is no longer regarded, as it once was, as an inevitable consequence of ageing, as inescapable as death or taxes. We know, for example, that there are genes that increase susceptibility to the disease: a discovery of direct relevance to Iris Murdoch, for her mother also died of Alzheimer's.

Genes, once identified and cloned, can often provide hints about the cause of a disease and suggest preventive measures, or drugs that may slow the spread of the insidious fog. Events, such as transient blockages in the flow of blood to the brain, may trigger the sudden shrinkage of the brain which causes the loss of function. Preventing these may help. Of existing drugs, none shows unequivocal benefits but that is no reason for despair. Research into Alzheimer's is relatively young and already much has been learnt; better drugs are surely on the way.

John Bayley's book is not about the cause and cure of Alzheimer's. It is, in truth, a love letter to a companion from whom he cannot bear to be apart, yet with whom he finds it increasingly burdensome to be together. We hope that his interview in our *Weekend* section today will strike chords with all those who have lost a loved one to Alzheimer's; and that the gentle, understated despair of his writings next week will encourage all our readers to do what they can to help the fight against this disease.

DEAR ROBIN

A friendly note from the Foreign Secretary's red box

Refreshed as you will be from your recent holiday, which you so wisely decided not to let a mere meeting of European Union foreign ministers interrupt, you must be brimming with energy. That, unfortunately, is just what you should not pack for your trip accompanying the Queen to Brunei and Malaysia. We took the liberty of putting your ethical foreign policy briefing notes back in the filing cabinet. But we rescued that thoughtful little paper. *Remember Kashmir*, from your shredder: sorry to say, Sir, it is essential pre-breakfast reading.

In the normal way, we know, this would be a trip you would want to sink your teeth into. Not that it appeared in the least controversial when it was set up. The Sultan of Brunei is not exactly new Labour; he runs an absolute monarchy and hasn't held elections since 1962, when the results were swiftly annulled. He would not, repeat not, take kindly to advice about rebranding Brunei. But until this summer, batting for British contracts would have filled out the pauses. That's tricky at the moment; the Sultan is a bit cash-strapped since that conglomerate owned by his exotic brother, Prince Jefri, collapsed owing billions which the Sultan is most anxious to locate. The Prince is on a prolonged foreign holiday of his own. Best concentrate on not getting lost in his vast palace and leave the Queen to do the talking; he still has lots of polo ponies.

Malaysia, you will say, is another matter. Your prickly host, Dr Mahathir Mohamed, seems to have gone mad; first he closes down the capital market and then sacks his modernising deputy, Anwar Ibrahim, and lets rip a bunch of rumours about him that make Tommy Graham look like Billy of that Ilk. The natives are angry and likely to demonstrate as the Queen closes the Commonwealth Games. Amnesty will be furious, too, if you don't raise the disgraceful jailing of Lim Guan Eng, the opposition leader. So you should, Sir, if you were on your own; as it is, *remember Kashmir* and talk about the weather. The smog in Kuala Lumpur has gone, at long last, so that topic at least is safe.

A last reminder, Sir, about the in-house tips about not wearing that yellow tie from your recent wardrobe makeover — strictly for the Sultan, that colour. And do not cross your legs when in Brunei; the local equivalent of two fingers is showing the soles of your shoes. Her Majesty never does. She has had 46 years' practice at this state visit game and her worst outing ever was to India last year. The PM does not, repeat not, want any *faux pas*. Core drill: walk at least two steps behind her, admire the palm trees. Think of Gaynor. But don't, of course, hold her hand.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Private life and public lies — the President under fire

From Mr Seth Eisenberg

Sir, I like Bill Clinton. I hope he'll remain our President until we elect someone else two years from now.

He made some foolish decisions, which probably didn't begin with this young intern, although they may well end there. If he needed convincing that the concept of private lives, public lies that's been so pervasive among America's political leaders for decades no longer works, he's certainly got it now. The message is being heard loud and clear in Washington and in city halls and state assemblies across America.

More important, the message is also being heard in bedrooms and boardrooms throughout the United States. Husbands and wives may be looking at one another a bit differently. I find the moral indignation in this case hard to take from a nation in which so few of us have succeeded in keeping our own marital promises.

Bill Clinton is devoted to an America that is safe, secure and prosperous. He has contributed to creating a world in which people are more focused on what we share in common instead of where we disagree.

Leading America into the new millennium needs someone very human, yet with vision, talent, experience and dedication. For better or worse, William Jefferson Clinton remains that person.

Yours etc,
SETH EISENBERG
(Chief Executive Officer,
PAIRS International, Inc),
318 Indian Trace, Box 158,
Weston, Florida 33326.
opinion@pairs.com
September 10.

From Professor Stephen P. Schwartz

Sir, Your leading article suggesting that it would be best for Clinton to resign ("Dead in the water", September 9; see also letters, same day), cites Senator Lieberman's claim that Bill Clinton's affair with Monica Lewinsky is not a private issue, because "privacy could [not] cover sex with 'an employee in the workplace'". The problem is, and this has been an important underlying issue throughout the Starr investigation, that the President has no privacy.

I do not condone the President's behavior in this matter, but presidents do not have the option of meeting friends privately at, say, a restaurant or dropping over to their place for a visit. Given that the President has no privacy, it seems disingenuous to say the least to condemn him for not using it for his affairs.

Ultimately I fear that this lack of privacy will destroy the presidency. How many people will willingly put themselves and their friends and families in the position of receiving the sort of hostile and intimate scrutiny that any president is now sure to receive, given that such scrutiny is now sanctioned by the US legal system?

Sincerely yours,
STEPHEN P. SCHWARTZ,
Ithaca College London Center,
35 Harrington Gardens, SW7 4JU.
sschwartz@clarityconnect.com

From the Chief Executive of The Magazine Channel Ltd

Sir, Bill Clinton's problems plainly echo those of John Profumo in 1963. It did not matter particularly that "Jack" Profumo lied to the then Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan, his own wife, or the team that Macmillan appointed to investigate his affair. What mattered was that he lied to Parliament.

The business of telling whoppers has moved on a great deal in the intervening 35 years. Television wasn't important then. Mr Clinton did not just lie to his wife, Congress and Mr Starr. He lied, through his use of television, to the world. Of what value is an American President who is an acknowledged, worldwide liar?

Yours sincerely,
JEREMY WALLINGTON
(Co-author, *Scandal '63*,
Heinemann, 1963),
Chief Executive,
The Magazine Channel Ltd,
28 Merrick Square, SE1 4JB.
September 10.

From Professor Rudolf Carpanini

Sir, A medieval moralist would certainly have endorsed the claim that "disloyalty to legitimate authority" was the worst kind of fraudulent sin (Professor John A. Davis's letter, September 9), but a special prosecutor's exercise of powers conferred on him by a legitimate government institution can hardly qualify as such.

On the other hand, Professor Davis must know that a Dante, for example, would have regarded the authority of the American President as being derived ultimately from God; that is, not from any mere "election", nor even less from a public opinion poll. Like other medieval thinkers, Dante would have expected a head of government to govern in conformity with not only human, but also natural and divine law, and he would have seen Clinton's adultery and perjury as serious breaches of universal moral law.

Of course, the public feels a natural sympathy for Clinton, as Dante himself did for carnal sinners. Nevertheless, I doubt whether Bill and Monica would have made it to the same circle of Hell as Dido, Cleopatra and Francesca da Rimini. They are surely more the stuff of satire than of epic poetry.

Yours faithfully,
RUDOLF G. CARPANINI,
Castle House,
Market Square, Fishguard,
Pembrokeshire SA65 9HA.
September 10.

From Dr Mary Hardy

Sir, Professor Davis suggests that the "biological tendency of young women to throw themselves at powerful men" excuses Clinton's conduct.

I, on the other hand, believe that if Clinton could curb his "biological tendency" to assume that every woman finds him irresistible the whole sleazy mess could have been avoided.

Professor Davis is quite wrong in thinking that the problem lies in the actual affair; the problem lies in the subsequent denials and misinformation, especially in portraying Monica Lewinsky as an unbalanced fantasist.

Americans have a right to believe that when their leader looks straight into the camera to speak to them, he is telling them something that is at least vaguely true. He lied. He was caught. That matters. He should go.

Yours etc,
MARY HARDY,
88 William St W,
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 1J7.
mrhardy@setosa.uwaterloo.ca
September 9.

Trust replies to its Snowdon critics

From the Director-General of the National Trust

Sir, Criticisms about the future of Snowdon (Simon Jenkins, August 29; letters, September 5 and 11) are unfair to the National Trust.

For all its grandeur, the appearance of Snowdon today is the product of a delicate balance between nature and farming that has evolved over hundreds of years. Maintaining that balance requires positive management which no statutory designation can ensure.

The fact that Snowdon is in a national park affords it a degree of protection, but it cannot ensure that dry-stone walls, farm buildings, woods and footpaths are maintained. It cannot prevent over-grazing, the encroachment of scrub and bracken, the fencing of footpaths, or buildings from falling into disuse.

Least of all, given the uncertain future of upland farming today, can it ensure that the land continues to be farmed in the traditional way, or even farmed at all. Indeed, the vendor, Mr Richard Williams, whose family have farmed and cared for much of Snowdon since the 16th century, has experienced difficulty in continuing to farm land that is visited by more than 500,000 every year.

The land might have been bought by another farmer who was equal to the task, but the only way to be *sure* that it will look for future generations as it does to those who climb it today is through an owner committed to that purpose.

The National Trust was founded to protect, manage and provide access to places of natural beauty and there can be few more beautiful places than Snowdon. We are determined to raise the £4 million needed to protect Snowdon forever.

This week, thanks to a response, unprecedented in its warmth and generosity, from people all over the world, we have reached the £2.4 million mark. We have 63 days to reach our target.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN DRURY,
Director-General,
The National Trust,
36 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1H 9AS.
September 11.

Calming rural drivers

From the Chairman of the Road Safety Markings Association

Sir, Your report of September 2, "The rural look that calms speeding drivers", provides a worthwhile and accurate insight into the effectiveness of road signage in reducing traffic speeds. It is wrong, however, in suggesting that the removal of road markings from country lanes may be a method of making a road safer.

The chief road safety engineer for Norfolk, Mr Neil Mayhew, is reported as believing that removal of the centre line on the road through the village of Starston, near Diss, makes motorists "more sensitive to the world outside their vehicles". Unfortunately there is no evidence to suggest that such steps make roads any safer for users, whether pedestrians or drivers; indeed, there is hard evidence to suggest the opposite.

The recent publication of a joint report, *Cosmetic or Crucial? — The Case for Signs and Lines*, by the RSMA and the Association for Traffic Safety and Management, clearly shows that the use of adequate road lining and signing reduces accidents and saves lives and public resources through the consequent reduction of pressure on emergency services and the NHS.

Even in the case of Starston, we believe that the removal of safety markings irrevocably diminishes order and instruction from the road environment. The claimed reduction in driver speeds is likely to be the result of confusion, perhaps even disorientation, neither of which is conducive to safe driving. In the longer term the lack of visual cues provided by centre and edge lines, especially in rural areas and in dark and wet conditions, will inevitably lead to accidents and/or fatalities.

Your report suggests that Mr Mayhew's ideas have thus far proved "too radical" for the bureaucrats at county headquarters. On the contrary, it is to their credit that they have rejected an idea that is certainly flawed, perhaps fatally so.

Yours faithfully,
G. A. WHITELEY,
Chairman,
Road Safety Markings Association,
Unit 21, Bury Business Centre,
Kay Street, Bury BL9 6BU.
September 7.

From Wing Commander T. F. H. Hudson, RAF (retd)

Sir, The answer to speeding on country roads is simple — save money and don't maintain them to our ridiculously high standards. There's nothing like pot holes to slow up irresponsible drivers.

Yours faithfully,
T. F. H. HUDSON,
29 Payne's Court,
Buckingham MK18 1NQ.

Weekend Money letters, page 63

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046, e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Ghost shirt

From Dr David S. Lewis

Sir, In your report (September 9) on the Sioux "ghost shirt" currently on display in the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow, you suggested that Crazy Horse died during the massacre at Wounded Knee in December 1890.

He was, in fact, killed on the night of September 5, 1877, at Fort Robinson, shortly after being arrested. He died from a bayonet thrust to the abdomen, administered by the ironically named Private William Gentles, as he struggled with two captors who were intent upon placing him in chains. His remains were buried by his parents at a secret location believed to be in the vicinity of Chankpe Opi Wakpala, a creek known to the whites as Wounded Knee.

Crazy Horse's comrade at the Battle of Little Bighorn in 1876, Chief Sitting Bull, was killed whilst being arrested on December 15, 1890, shortly before the Wounded Knee massacre. However, the most prominent chief killed in the Wounded Knee engagement itself was Big Foot, an invalid incapacitated by chronic pneumonia at the time of his death.

Buffalo Bill (William Cody) did not participate in the action at Wounded Knee, as suggested in your picture caption. He visited Standing Rock in December 1890 as part of a botched plan to arrest Sitting Bull, but the plan was abandoned and he returned to Chicago before the massacre.

Yours faithfully,
D. S. LEWIS
(Editor),
Keesing's Record of World Events,
69a Lensfield Road,
Cambridge CB2 1EN.
September 9.

Stress at work

From Mrs Jill Wilkins

Sir, Whilst I have some sympathy with Mr Peter McGregor's view (letter, September 10) that stress is a normal component of responsibility, it does not necessarily follow that the experience of unbearable stress at work is a consequence of the individual's incompetence.

In a poorly managed organisation employees may suffer unfair treatment by their immediate superiors (who may indeed have risen to the level of their incompetence). If there is no supportive personnel structure to address the problem, unbearable stress can be the result for vulnerable employees who have no voice and find themselves trapped in a situation they are unable to resolve, except by leaving the organisation — obviously this is often not an option.

Where there is no union and the employee is not eligible for legal aid, it may be extremely difficult (and stressful) for an individual to take action against an organisation, which will usually have access to expensive legal advice. Too many employers therefore get away with bad management and personnel practices which can severely affect the working and personal lives of those they employ.

Yours faithfully,
JILL WILKINS,
17 Matham Road,
East Molesey, Surrey KT8 0SX.
September 10.

A close call

From Mr Ian A. Barker

Sir, As a caption to your splendid back page photograph (September 9) you comment that the pair of tandem riders failed to break a record set in 1937 of "almost 50 kilometres" in an hour, with an average speed of 31 miles an hour. By my calculation 31mph is 49.6 kilometres in an hour, so how close is "almost"?

Sincerely,
IAN BARKER,
16 Farm View Drive, Chineham,
Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 8EX.

Industrial tribunals

From Ms Victoria Blankstone

Sir, Mr T. F. Matthews (letter, September 8) suggests that a prospective female employee should be asked: "Have you any reason to believe that you have a medical condition that will require you to take time off work in the next 12 months?"

If I were asked that question I would reply "No" with a clear conscience on two grounds, whatever the truth of the matter.

First, the principle of equal treatment for men and women as laid down in Community law clearly states that there shall be no discrimination on grounds of sex either directly or *indirectly* by reference in particular to marital or family status. A refusal to employ a woman on the grounds of pregnancy constitutes direct discrimination on the grounds of sex.

Secondly, how can Mr Matthews regard pregnancy as a "medical condition"? A pregnant woman cannot reasonably be compared to a man with an arthritic hip, for instance. To suggest otherwise to companies, "especially small ones", would not only be foolish but more costly than employing the best "man for the job".

Yours faithfully,
VICTORIA BLANKSTONE
(Law student and theatre nurse),
Lyttelton Croft, St Kenelms Road,
Romsley, West Midlands B62 0NE.
September 8.

Thirty-nine more steps?

From Mr John O'Byrne

Sir, Perhaps Mr Michael Donley has misunderstood the wording on his bottle of Body Wash [letter, September 7; see also letter, September 10].

"40+ uses" could mean that it's strictly for use by bodies aged 40 and over.

Yours truly,
JOHN O'BYRNE,
2 Mount Argus Court,
Harold's Cross, Dublin 6W.
obyrnejo@forbairt.ie
September 7.

Legions of honours

From Mr Peter Girling

Sir, I read with interest Ben Macintyre's article, "France's legion of heroes and villains" (September 5).

Surely the most grotesque situation regarding French awards occurred during the Second World War, when both the Free French and the collaborationist Vichy regime awarded the same decoration, the Croix de Guerre, albeit with three different ribbons.

The Free French under de Gaulle wore a green ribbon with red edges and three red stripes; the ribbon worn by the Free French in North Africa, under General Giraud, carried seven red stripes; and the seven stripes on the Vichy ribbon were black.

I do not suppose that many collaborationists have sewn the Vichy ribbon onto their pyjamas — as the late Oxford historian, Richard Cobb, is reputed to have done with the one awarded to him by President Minerrand in 1984.

Yours faithfully,
PETER GIRLING,
11 Bateman Mews,
Cambridge CB2 1NN.
September 7.

Tourist attractions

From Dr Caroline Lyon

Sir, While Joni Aptula from Bulgaria was marvelling at a British supermarket (report, "Tourist's souvenir is Asda the Movie", September 10) we were on holiday in Bulgaria, relishing their fresh, natural food.

Walking through the mountains, descending to stay at monasteries in the valleys and eat at local restaurants, we realised how delicious simple fresh food can be. Many people seem to be trying to be entrepreneurs, and scores of little restaurants are opening — for instance in the charming little old town of Bansko where we were told there were 134 restaurants.

There is something to be said for visiting a country where most of the food "is grown on the land".

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE BOWES LYON,
St Pauls Walden Bury,
Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG4 8BP.
September 11.

Sorry, no forelock

From His Honour Judge Dr Peter Jackson

Sir, The Demos report [letters, September 9 and 11] concerning the monarchy's future — and no doubt a less deferential society — already seems to have had an effect regarding Her Majesty's judges.

During jury selection in my court here on September 7, I asked a juror if he would have any problem with trying a three-month case. His response was "No, mate."

Yours faithfully,
PETER JACKSON,
The Crown Court,
1 English Grounds,
Southwark SE1 2HU.
September 9.

COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE
September 11: The Prince Edward, President, the Commonwealth Games Federation, today undertook the following engagements in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for the XVI Commonwealth Games.

His Royal Highness this morning visited the Royal Selangor Pewter Factory, makers of the Commonwealth Games medals, before visiting the British High Commission to meet the staff.

The Prince Edward this afternoon visited the International Zone of the National Sports Complex, Bukit Jalil, toured the facilities and had Lunch with the Athletes.

His Royal Highness later opened the rebuilt Alice Smith School at the Equine Park Campus.

The Prince Edward this evening attended the Opening Ceremony of the XVI Commonwealth Games at the National Sports Complex and read the Message from The Queen.

Birthdays

TODAY: Mr Bertie Ahern, Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland, 51; Miss Maria Aitken, actress, 53; Sir Lindsay Alexander, former deputy chairman, Lloyds Bank, 78; Viscount Allendale, 76; Mr Nicholas Barter, Principal, Rada, 58; Colonel Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel, KT, former Lord-Lieutenant of Inverness, 88; Mr Alan Cathcart, chairman and chief executive, Avis, Europe, 55; Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Compston, 83; Professor Ronald Hedley, educationist, 81; Sir Ian Holm, actor, 67; Lord Milner of Leeds, 75; the Right Rev Alan Rogers, former Bishop of Mauritius, 91; the Right Rev Frank Pilkington Sargeant, Bishop at Lambeth, 66; Mr Roben Simpson, chief executive, The Press Association, 54; Sir Arthur Sugden, former chief executive officer, Co-operative Wholesale Society, 80; Sir Gervas Walker, former chairman, Association of County Councils, 78; Professor George Zarnecki, FBA, art historian, 83.

TOMORROW: The Marquess of Ailsa, 42; Miss Carol Barnes, broadcaster, 54; Miss Jacqueline Bisset, actress, 54; Lieutenant-General Sir Derek Boorman, 68; Sir George Engle, QC, former First Parliamentary Counsel, 72; Baroness Fisher of Rednal, 79; Mr Niall FitzGerald, chairman, Unilever, 53; Lord Flowers, FRS, 74; Mr George Foggon, former Foreign Office adviser, 85; Professor Sir John Gunn, natural philosopher, 82; the Duke of Hamilton, 60; Mr Goran Ivanisevic, tennis player, 27; Lord Moynihan, 43; the Right Rev George Noakes, former Archbishop of Wales, 74; Mr Tony Pickard, tennis coach, 64; Sir Thomas Risk, former Governor, Bank of Scotland, 76; Mr Robert Sheldon, MP, 75; Mr George Staple, former Director, Serious Fraud Office, 58; Mr James Stuart-Smith, QC, former Judge Advocate General, 79; Professor Sir Keith Sykes, anaesthetist, 73; Mr Keith Thompson, former Vice-Chancellor, Staffordshire University, 66; Mr Mel Tormé, singer, 73; Mr Shane Warne, cricketer, 29; Lord Weidenfeld, 79.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.J. Arthur and Miss R.A. Fehle
The engagement is announced between Stephen James, only son of Mr Robert Arthur, of Cambridge, and of Mrs Barbara Cleverly and stepson of Mr Peter Cleverly, of Debenham, Suffolk, and Rebecca Anne, only daughter of the late Goesta Fehle and of Mrs Fehle, of Ramsey, Isle of Man.

Mr R. Callow and Miss L. Waight
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of the late Mr J.F. Callow and of Mrs Rosemary Callow, of Hastings, East Sussex, and Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ronnie Waight, of Claverham Manor, Berwick, East Sussex.

Mr R.A.S. Datnow and Miss A.M. Harding
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr and Mrs Edward Datnow, of London, and Alexandra, daughter of Dr and Mrs Michael Harding, of London.

Mr N.D.W. Fearn and Miss K.D. Cafferty
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Arthur Fearn, of Tebworth, Bedfordshire, and Kelly, daughter of Mr and Mrs Vincent Cafferty, of Tampa, Florida.

Mr J.G.C. Footner and Miss L.J. Malone
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of Mr and Mrs George Footner, of Lymington, and Lucy, daughter of the late Dr Malone and of Mrs Malone, of Melbourne, Australia.

Mr C.J.B. Harper and Miss S.H. Winley-Greene
The engagement is announced between Charles, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Harper, of Herefordshire, and Sarah, only daughter of Mr Nicholas Winley-Greene, and Mrs Gavin Smith, of Durban, South Africa.

Dr M.K.W. Johnston and Miss G. Furlong
The engagement is announced between Malcolm, eldest son of Mr and Mrs A.F. Johnston, of Radlett, Hertfordshire, and Geraldine, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs P. Furlong, of New Ross, Co Wexford, Eire.

The Hon M-J. Knatchbull and Mrs S.P. Hendersoo
The engagement is announced between Michael-John, son of Lord Brabourne and Countess Mountbatten of Burma, and Penny, daughter of Mr and Mrs S.C. Coates, of Epperstone, Nottinghamshire.

Mr M.I. Lamont and Miss N. Holmes
The engagement is announced between Murray, son of Mr and Mrs Iain Lamont, of Glenfield, Auckland, New Zealand, and Nathalie, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Holmes, of Kew Gardens, Surrey.

Mr H. McCurrich and Miss E. Robbins
The engagement is announced between Hugh, son of Mr and Mrs Laurence McCurrich, of Rushock, Worcestershire, and Eve, daughter of Mr and Mrs Pat Robbins, of Sternfield, Suffolk.

Mr O.J. Ryder and Miss A.J. Crook
The engagement is announced between Oliver, younger son of Mr and Mrs Denys Ryder, of East Meon, Hampshire, and Annabel, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Crook, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.

Dr T.A. Stout and Dr S.S. Mathias
The engagement is announced between Tom, only son of Mr and Mrs T.V. Stout, of Gwaelod-y-Garth, Glamorgan, and Susanna, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.R. Ravenscroft, of Hodnet, Shropshire.

Mr A.C.L. Wildsmith and Dr S.E.V. Martin
The engagement is announced between Alan, son of Mr and Mrs David Wildsmith, of Bussage, Gloucestershire, and Sophie, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Martin, of Upwood, Cambridgeshire.

Marriages

Mr J.C.A.D. Buchan of Auchmacoy and Miss S.J. McArthur
The marriage took place yesterday at St Margaret's, Cley-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, of Mr Charles Buchan, Younger of Auchmacoy, eldest son of Captain David and the Hon Mrs Buchan of Auchmacoy, Aberdeenshire, to Miss Sharon McArthur, daughter of the late Captain George McArthur and of Mrs Miriam McArthur, of Holt. The Rev Philip Norwood officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by Mr David McArthur, was attended by George McArthur and Cordelia and Matilda Ruck. Mr Toby Gordon was best man.

A reception was held at Bayfield Hall, Norfolk.

Mr D.B. Denton and Miss H.E. Morris-Eyton
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 5, 1998, at St Mary's Church, Whicham, Millom, Cumbria, of David, twin son of the late Mr Hugh Denton and of Mrs Patrica Anderson, of Farndish, Northampton, and Helen, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Jack Morris-Eyton, of Millom, Cumbria.

The reception was held at The Bankfield Country House Hotel and the honeymoon is being spent in Florida.

Mr D.K. Jaffrey and Miss S.J. Stagnell
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 12, 1998, at Fawsley Church, Fawsley, between Mr Darreo Jaffrey, son of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Jaffrey, of Chobham, and Miss Samantha Stagnell, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Stagnell, of Walton-on-Thames. The Rev Melanie Toogood officiated.

Surgeon Commander I.J. Jarvis, RN, and Dr P.A.L. Gordoo
The marriage took place yesterday, September 11, in Chichester, of Surgeon Commander Lionel John Jarvis, RN, to Dr Penelope Anne Leith Gordon.

A service of blessing is being held today at St Luke's Church, The Royal Hospital, Haslar, followed by a reception in the Medical Officers' Mess.

Mr M. Pugsley and Miss C. Thomas
The marriage took place on August 30, 1998, at Plympton St Maurice Parish Church, Devon, of Mr Martin Pugsley, son of Lieutenant Commander and Mrs John Pugsley, to Miss Catherine Thomas, only daughter of the Reverend and Mrs Theodore Thomas.

Memorial service

Vice-Admiral Sir Fitzroy Talbot
A memorial service for Vice-Admiral Sir Fitzroy Talbot was held yesterday at the Minster Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Ilminster, Somerset. The Rev John Reed officiated.

Ms Melissa Charrington read the lesson. Mr Ashton Shuttleworth read from William Shakespeare's *Cymbeline*, and Mr Alastair Forbes read an extract from *The Fox's Prophecy* by D.W. Nash. Captain Val Bailey, RN, gave an address.

Members of the family, friends and former colleagues were among those present.

Professor Cecil Grayson
A Memorial Service for Professor Cecil Grayson, CBE, FBA, MA, will be held in the Chapel of Magdalen College, Oxford, on Saturday, October 24, 1998, at 3pm.

Dinners

Corporation of London
The Prime Minister of the Côte d'Ivoire attended a dinner given by the Corporation of London and the International Cocoa Organization last night at Guildhall to mark the 25th anniversary of the International Cocoa Organization. The Lord Mayor and the Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire were the speakers.

Luncheon

Lloyd's Register
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by Mr Alderman and Sheriff Michael Oliver, was the guest of honour at a luncheon held yesterday at Trinity House given by Mr Patrick O'Ferrall, Chairman of Lloyd's Register.

Service dinner

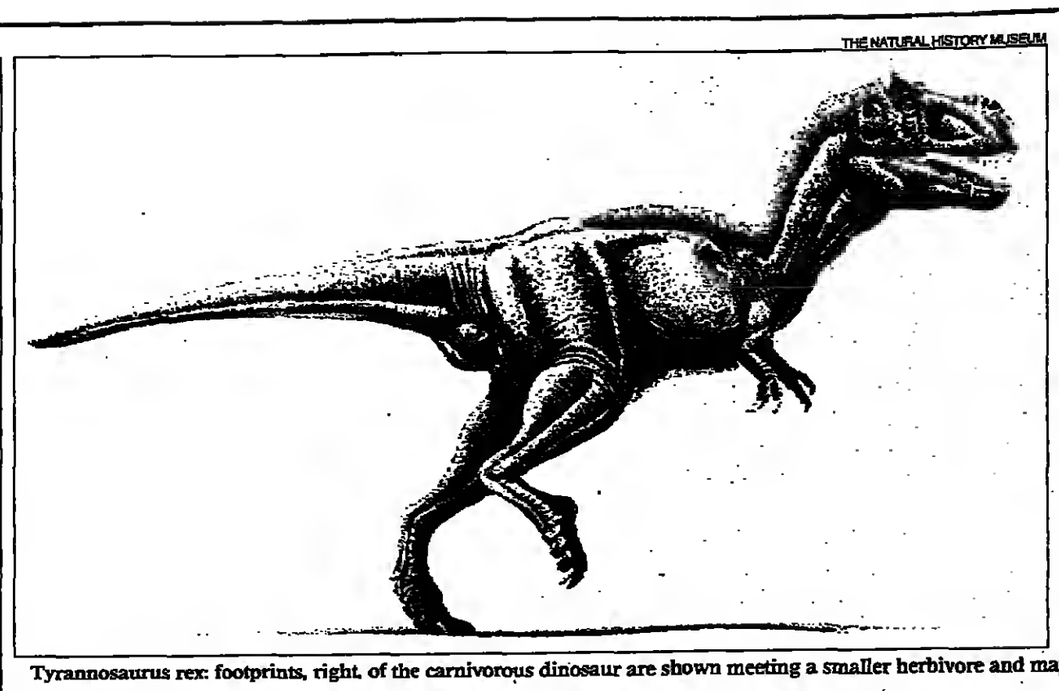
The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire
Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the 3rd Battalion The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire held a dinner at Strensall, York, to bid farewell to Colonel E.A.K. Denison, Honorary Colonel.

School news

King's College School, Cambridge
Term has begun at King's College School with a record number of children (297) at the school. There are 104 girls and 193 boys including 33 boarders. The new Headmaster is Mr Nicholas Robinson (formerly Housemaster of St Bede's, Worth School). As part of the first phase of the current building development programme, the new Design Technology centre is now in operation. King's College Choir has returned from a successful tour to Hong Kong and Australia. For further details regarding choristerships, or places for day/boarding pupils ring the school secretary on tel: 01223-365814 or fax 01223-461388.

Notices about Giggleswick School, Harrogate Ladies' College, and Kelly College will be published oo Monday

THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM



Tyrannosaurus rex: footprints, right, of the carnivorous dinosaur are shown meeting a smaller herbivore and may establish whether T. Rex was a hunter or a scavenger

In the footprints of giants

Iguanodon and young of cretaceous period

A discovery in Bolivia may alter our ideas about the dinosaurs, Gabriella Gamini reports

Klaus Schut, a palaeontology enthusiast who recognised the importance of the site, points out the tracks of two iguanadons

AN UNWITTING discovery by Bolivian cement factory workers has been identified as the world's most extensive and well preserved site of dinosaurs' footprints, providing scientists with spectacular new evidence of the habits of prehistoric giants.

Christian Meyer, a Swiss palaeontologist, said: "It's a palaeontological jewel." He is among a team of European scientists who have spent the past weeks analysing thousands of prints embedded on a vast, vertical, limestone quarry wall, uncovered at a cement plant outside the colonial city of Sucre, in the Andean foothills.

Guiseppe Lorenzetti, another team member, said; "There are more than 15,000 individual prints scattered over the sedimentary wall." They belong to about 170 different species of dinosaurs who lived along the shores of a lake, which lay under what is now a line of central Andean hills. "If it had not been for the fact that this was turned to land for cement extraction, it would never have been found," the scientists said.

The fossilised prints scattered among signs of algae and fish life are invaluable new sources for the study of the movements and eating habits of species who lived in the cretaceous period, between 68 and 150 million years ago. The site is also several times larger than one found in Turkmenistan dating back 25 million years.

"One clear print sequence shows an ankylosaurus in rapid movement," Mr Meyer said. Apparently these are the first such tracks of the species found. The ankylosaurus was a carnivore that looked like giant toad with bony rings and spines around the neck. Fossils of its bones had until now only been found in north Africa.

"The longest trail of steps is the walk to drink water made by two adult iguanodon. Their footprints are about 80cm in diameter," Mr Meyer said. "We have also identified the tracks that show the giant carnivorous tyrannosaurus rex meeting a smaller herbivore, presumably his prey."

According to Mr Meyer, these tracks will be useful to find an answer to the debate over whether the tyrannosaur was a hunter or a scavenger. "We have made a map outlining every print and fossil and will spend the next months studying them carefully," he said. The experts expect to find prints of several previously unknown species.

The first footprints were noticed across the vertical face of the Fancesa cement factory quarry, five miles outside of Sucre, several years ago. Workers at the factory recall seeing oddly shaped prints when they started hacking away at the Cal Orka hill in 1960. An earthquake which had shaken the stone city built by Spanish conquistadors had forced local people to start building with concret.

But the superstitious quarrymen kept quiet about their find, fearing the oddly shaped indentations were marks left by legendary animal gods, revered by their Inca ancestors. It was only because they came across magnesium, unsuitable for cement production, that they stopped cutting away at the wall.

It was the curiosity of a local palaeontology buff, who was told of the strange tracks, that eventually brought the footprints to the experts' attention. Klaus Schut, a Bolivian professor of German decent, made a video of the tracks two years ago which he sent to the Natural History Museum in the capital La Paz.

"I knew that the wall was a prehistorie treasure as soon as I saw it, but here in Bolivia my efforts to bring attention to them fell on deaf ears," he recalls. "It was only when my video was shown at a palaeontology meeting in Germany two months ago that light was shed on the discovery".

Professor Schut now wants to see the limestone quarry wall turned into a protected, natural history site, thus boosting Sucre's depressed economy. "Who knows? The prehistoric giants could ironically bring our backward city to world attention," he said. "We could build a cretaceous park and make it a point of attraction for visitors."

He is heeding the warnings from scientists that unless steps are taken to preserve the wall, the footprints will disappear fast. Wind, rain and soil erosion could cause them to vanish within three years.

The palaeontologists have also said that the areas so far unexcavated around the quarry conceal fresh discoveries. They have urged the cement factory to stall from the area, incase they are turning fossils into cement blocks.

But while Unesco has promised a $50,000 fund and the Swiss Government has offered a similar sum, the future of the world's largest site where dinosaurs roamed site remains uncertain. Those involved in the state-owned cement factory are immersed in a heated debate about ownership of the prints. Some insist that cement production — the main employer in Sucre — cannot be stalled to preserve "long dead dinosaurs". Others are competing to profit by charging for viewing rights to the site.

As they argue, the footprint-covered wall, now open to the elements, is beginning to crumble. Pieces of limestone baked by the sun are continually being dislodged in the piercing Andean winds.

ON THIS DAY

September 12, 1988

Steffi Graf was one of the great tennis champions and a favourite of the crowds. After the grand slam in 1988 she went on to win many more titles and has only recently been eclipsed by a younger generation

Superior stamina leads Graf to a grand slam finish

From Rex Bellamy in New York

Steffi Graf, aged 19, beat Gabriela Sabatini 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 in the women's singles at Flushing Meadow. Graf won more than £160,000 and completed a grand slam of the Australian, French, Wimbledon, and United States singles championships.

In those tournaments Graf won 227 matches and lost sets only to Martina Navratilova at Wimbledon and to Sabatini here. The first German to win either of the US singles titles, Graf is also the fourth woman to achieve a grand slam in singles and the third to do so within a calendar year.

Borrowed from bridge, the grand slam is a media invention and had no offical standing until six years ago. It had been commonly accepted, though, that the feat must be completed within a calendar year. Maureen Connolly and Margaret Court did that.

During the 1970s the calendar year concept became untenable because the Australian championships jumped about from December to January, sometimes overlapping two calendar years or leaving the odd year with only three grand slam tournaments. So the International Tennis Federation, with the approval of other governing bodies, devised the first and only official definition.

The solved the Australian problem by declaring that a grand slam consisted of holding all four titles at the same time: a feat achieved by Navratilova from the 1983 Wimbledon to the 1984 French championships. Graf should improve, too. Physically, she is mature, and an enviably endowed, highly trained athlete. Experience should produce technical refinements and enhanced wisdom and composure as a match-player. Graf should emulate Rod Laver by winning a second grand slam, but would be the last to take that for granted.

Sabatini, 11 months younger, has given Graf a series of close matches and, this year, has beaten her twice. Moreover, Sabatini has more scope for improvement: most evidently, in terms of fitness and stamina.

It was this comparative weakness that made the third set of the final more one-sided than it might have been. Graf was then playing her best tennis, after an error-strewn second set, and Sabatini could not stay with her.

Sabatini's command of top-spin has always made her unusually difficult to attack. As a result of sound coaching and hard work in the past year, the first Argentinian woman to reach a grand slam singles final has also become more confident and competent when serving and volleying — more at finishing rallies, as distinct from merely playing them.

This match, though, was mostly played from the base-line. Graf was stronger, fitter. At the end Sabatini no longer had the energy or took the initiative to shorten the rallies — as she obviously needed to.

Graf playing for the title at Wimbledon in 1988

هكذا من الأصل

OBITUARIES

T. J. SMITH

Thomas John (TJ) Smith, MBE, AM, racehorse trainer, died in Sydney on September 2, aged 79. He was born on September 3, 1918.

T.J. Smith with his daughter Gai Waterhouse, herself a successful trainer, and their horse Inspired Lass

Australia has long had a love for horses, for gambling, and for a battler who makes good, and Tommy "TJ" Smith satisfied national dreams with his astonishing rise from uneducated, outback poverty, to become a multi-millionaire trainer with a unique gift for sizing up a horse.

Frustrated in his ambition to be a jockey, he found his metier when he switched to training, becoming one of the most brilliant achievers the Australian turf had seen.

Smith remained something of a maverick, impatient of authority and the snobbery of the racing establishment, but he became so influential a figure that in the end the establishment had to embrace and honour him, while the nation loved his irrepressible approach.

The 2,000 congregation at his funeral at Sydney's St. Mary's Cathedral was surprised to hear Father Hugh Walsh explain that Smith, widely seen as tough and self-centred, had taken up the collection every Sunday in the small Catholic Church of St. Joseph, Edgecliff, keeping a promise made to his adored mother than he would go to church every Sunday.

Thomas John Smith was born on a property outside Braidwood, in southern New South Wales, the second of seven children of Neil and May Smith, of English-Irish background. The horse was central to their lives; both Smith's parents were skilled riders, his father being known as a horse-breaker and competitor in buckjumping events.

The eldest of five sons, Smith was given a pony at the age of five, and as a youngster was soon kept home from school to help family earnings with work ranging from wool-carting to scrub-clearing, road-building and timber-hauling. In his early teens, he traded in a prized bullwhip to buy a calf which he fed with grain "souvenired" from haulage loads worked by his father. He sold it to buy a rail ticket to Melbourne, giving his mother the rest of the proceeds and announcing he was leaving home, and would never come back.

Smith was apprenticed as a jockey to trainer Mack Sawyer, but he soon found he lacked the ability needed on the track, and he eventually returned to the country to oversee a horse property for Sawyer. The youngster found an unraced thoroughbred running free in the hills of the property; he bought him from Sawyer, named him Bragger, and after training he became the first of thousands of Smith winners in Sydney, at Rosehill in March 1942.

Bragger won more races, and Smith collected substantial betting winnings, but the delights of big city high life rapidly ate into his new affluence, as he enjoyed girls and gambling, as well as indulging in expensive clothes including perky hats and bow ties which became a trademark.

At one point, Smith could not scrape up the £3 nomination fee for Bragger's next race. He played two-up until 3 in the morning and won £14, going on to Randwick racecourse at 5am to exercise his horse. After paying the fee, he put the remaining £11 on Bragger, who duly won. Smith recorded: "I won a hatful — I'd set him for this race. I vowed I'd never be broke again. And I haven't."

By the early Fifties, Smith's skills were heavily in demand and in the 1952-53 season he won his first Sydney trainers' premiership — going on to an astonishing 33 successive titles in a run believed to be unequalled anywhere in the world. He trained 100 or more winners in 20 of those years, reaching 176 in 1976, and usually doubling the tally of his nearest rival.

Abrasive and individualistic, and a master of self-promotion, he had various conflicts with stipendiary stewards, surviving potential setbacks in 1950 by appealing successfully against disqualification after his horse Sunshine Express tested positive to a dope swab, and in 1954 when Tarien, winner of the AJC Doncaster, was disqualified, but Smith himself was exonerated.

In 1955 he burst into the national limelight by training the Melbourne Cup winner, Toparoa, and won Australia's greatest race again in 1981 with Just a Dash. Smith won a record six Golden Slippers — an important Sydney event — plus 35 of the various State versions of the Derby.

He claimed to have recorded 7,000 race wins, but the achievement which gave him most satisfaction was to develop Tulloch and Kingston Town from yearlings ignored by the turf world into two of Australia's best horses. Colleagues and competitors agreed that Smith's success stemmed from an incredible eye for a horse linked to an astonishing memory for detail, thorough organisational skills for both horses and staff, alongside shrewd business sense — and above all, a horseman's feeling for horses.

Smith's status was sealed at Randwick in 1992 when he was presented to the Queen as the winning trainer of Antiquity in the Queen's Cup. But he had already marked his place in society when he married Valerie Finlayson, product of a privileged Sydney lifestyle including a private school education. He was appointed MBE and AM (Member of the Order of Australia).

He is survived by his wife and a daughter, Gai Waterhouse, who took over the Smith stable in the 1980s and became one of Australia's best-known trainers.

MILESTONES

Roy Bradford, writer and MP for Stormont, 1965-73, died on September 2 aged 77. He was born on July 7, 1921.

Roy Bradford was a member of the ill-fated Northern Ireland Assembly of 1973-74. He was part of the liberal camp which followed Brian Faulkner into talks with the largely Catholic Social and Democratic Labour Party (SDLP) in an effort to reach some sort of power-sharing devolved government following the abolition of Stormont. But this prospect was dealt a fatal blow when the Prime Minister, Edward Heath, called a snap general election at the height of the miners' strike. His political career over, Bradford concentrated on writing novels and other books.

Obituary published on *September 7.*

Lal Waterson, folksinger and songwriter, died of cancer on September 4 aged 55. She was born on February 15, 1943.

Lal Waterson abandoned a career in graphic art to form the Watersons with her brother, sister and a cousin. After starting with skiffle, they concentrated on original folksong. The Sixties and Seventies were their heyday; Lal Waterson had disappeared from the recording scene until she returned two years ago with a critically-acclaimed album, accompanied on the guitar by her son Oliver Knight.

Obituary published on *September 9.*

Akira Kurosawa, Japanese film director, died in Tokyo on September 7 aged 88. He was born on March 23, 1910.

Akira Kurosawa almost single-handedly introduced Japanese cinema to the West, when his film *Rashomon* won the Golden Lion award at the 1951 Venice Film Festival. Kurosawa combined an epic historical vision with a deep feeling for humanity. He freely acknowledged the influence of Hollywood and a number of his films were remade in the West, notably *The Seven Samurai* (1954), which became *The Magnificent Seven* in 1960. Kurosawa often drew on Western literary

sources for inspiration: thus *The Throne of Blood* (1957) was a version of *Macbeth* transposed to 16th-century Japan, while the epic *Ran* (1984) was an adaptation of *King Lear* with sons substituted for the daughters and a transvestite cabaret artist as the Fool.

Obituary published on *September 7.*

LORD MARKS OF BROUGHTON

Lord Marks of Broughton with the last of his wives, Marina

The 2nd Baron Marks of Broughton died on September 9 aged 78. He was born on August 20, 1920.

A GRANDSON of the co-founder of Marks & Spencer, Michael Marks himself played little or no part in the life of the firm. He held, however, a very substantial shareholding in the company, worth at least £30 million, having inherited that (together with his peerage) from his father — the formidable Simon Marks, the 1st Baron Marks of Broughton — on the latter's death in 1964. Although he himself had no appetite or inclination to follow in his father's footsteps, fortunately by then the continued family leadership of the business was already secure. His high-powered cousin, Marcus (now Lord) Sieff, had joined Marks & Spencer as long ago as 1935 and rose steadily as his uncle Simon presided over the board. He eventually succeeded another uncle as chairman in 1972, holding that post until 1984. Even had he felt so disposed, there was thus little need for Michael Marks — only seven years younger than his Sieff cousin — to become involved.

But, in fact, he was never remotely tempted by such a life anyway — once famously describing himself as "a fugitive from a chain store". He saw his role as being creative and literary — in 1975 he had a work of "imaginative prose" published by Faber entitled *The Prince of the Golden Apple.* Almost ten years before that he had founded a charitable trust that distributed hundreds of thousands of pounds annually to artistic and environmental causes. He also painted and wrote poetry and in his earlier years maintained contact with the family business by dropping in at the canteen in M&S's Baker Street headquarters, where he would eat a 1s 6d lunch and in a soft voice read his latest poems to members of the staff (who, not surprisingly, were reported to listen in rapt attention).

Although he was undoubtedly an eccentric, Michael Marks started life conventionally enough. He was sent to school at St Paul's and went on from there to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where he read modern languages. He first came to public attention through his marriages, of which he eventually went through five. He did not, however, rush into matrimony, waiting until he was 29 to marry for the first time. His bride then was Ann Pinto, a collateral connection of the Rothschild family, and this marriage, the only one of the five to produce any children, lasted from 1949 to 1957.

On their divorce, his former wife was given custody of their son and two daughters. His other marriages — including ones to third and fourth wives from both Japan and China — tended to be briefer, though he was always generous when he felt the moment had come to part.

He married for the last time in 1992 a 38-year-old Greek divorcee Marina Collins (née Sakaliss) who looked after him at his home in St John's Wood as he became increasingly physically frail and mentally confused. She survives him, together with a young stepson. His own son Simon from his first marriage now becomes the 3rd Baron Marks of Broughton.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE; 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

The poor will always be with you in your land, and that is why I command you to be open-handed towards any of your countrymen who are in poverty and need. Deuteronomy 15 : 11

BIRTHS

ASHE - On September 8th at The Portland Hospital to Jackie (née Smyth) and Rupert, a son, Marcus, a brother for Isabel.

BRENNAN - On September 4th at The Portland Hospital to Maureen (née Noonan) and Michael, a son, Michael Jr, a brother for Maggie.

FOLEY - On September 10th to Emma and Steve, a daughter, Isobel Kate.

GORDON-ROACH - On September 7th at The John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, to Katy and David, a daughter, Isabella Catherine.

KERSHAW - On September 8th at The Portland Hospital to Clare and David, a daughter, Emma Selina, a sister for Tom.

KERSTING - On Thursday 3rd September to Brenda and Graham, a daughter, Felicity May Georgia.

LEWIS - On September 4th at The Portland Hospital to Samantha and Lawrie, a daughter, Charlotte Elizabeth, a sister for Max and Kit.

LODGE - On 4th September to Emily (née Estocki) and Andrew, a son, George Edward Arthur.

WELCH - On September 9th to Nicola (née Lowne) and Peter, a son, Thomas Ciaran.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

HUGH Brendan Devlin and Ann Elizabeth Heatley married on 13th September 1958. Married 40 years and still living in North Yorkshire. TS15 9JY. Many congratulations.

DEATHS

BENTON - Pat, on Thursday September 10th 1998, much loved by Miles, Sarah, Grace, Michael and Graham (Deceased). Funeral Service at Kettleburgh Church, Suffolk on Thursday September 17th, at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired may be sent for Suffolk Coastal Crossroads, c/o Moore Brothers, 13 Station Road, Framlingham Suffolk. IP13 9EA.

BURRUS - Dominique, in his forty-fourth year and Thierry, in his fifteenth year. Adriane, Elizabeth and Valérie are deeply saddened to announce the tragic disappearance in the SR 111 crash of the 2nd September 1998, of their husband, father, son and brother. United in their sadness: Tayfun at Inès Kutluoglu, Craig et Yassemine Castilla, Mme Gérard Burrus, Jale, Piri, Dilge, Tomris et Edeball, their sister, mother-in-law, brothers-in-law, sister-in-law, uncles, aunts and cousins, as well as the related families and friends. A memorial service will be celebrated at 3.00pm in the Church of the Sacré-Coeur, Ouchy, Lausanne, Switzerland, on the 18th of September. R.I.P.

CAWDRON - Betty. Early on 10th September 1998, peacefully in her sleep at Beaumont Lodge, Chorleywood. Very dearly loved wife of Blackie, mother of Pam, Peter and Richard, grandmother of nine and great-grandmother of four. Service to be held on Tuesday, 22nd September at 12.30pm at Chiltern Crematorium, Amersham. Family flowers only, donations to the R.N.L.B. Charity, 224 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6AA.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

DICKSON - Robert Campbell Miller passed away peacefully at home on Thursday 10th September 1998. Fellow of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, retired Director of the Boots Company and passed Chairman of Nottinghamshire County Council. Devoted husband of the late Maude Evelyn and beloved father of Anne and Robert, father-in-law of Irene and grandfather of Mark. Funeral Service at St. Peter's Church Ruddington, Nottinghamshire, Monday 21st September at 12 noon, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only but donations in his memory to the Children's Medical Charity, Y.C.S.F. c/o A.Oliver and Sons Funeral Directors, 45 Easthorpe Street, Ruddington, Nottingham, would be greatly appreciated.

FORGIONE - Carl. Actor, husband and friend, died 10th September 1998. RIP, Lorraine.

GODDARD - Hazel of Windsor and originally of Coppingham Hull passed away peacefully on 9th September. Deeply mourned by her many relations and friends. Funeral service at All Saints Church, Frances Road, Windsor on Friday 18th September at 3.15pm. Flowers to E. Sargeant & Son, 61 St. Leonards Road, Windsor. 01753 865982

HAZELTON - On 9th September, the Rev. E.G. Hazelton O.B.E. in his 90th year. Funeral at St. Nicholas Hospital, Salisbury at 2.45pm on 24th September followed by private cremation. Family flowers only but donations if wished to Christian Aid. Enquiries c/o I.N. Newman Ltd., Funeral Directors 01722 413136

HESLAM - James William (Bill) aged 79 - On Wednesday, 9th September, in a Cambridge Nursing Home after a long, and at the end, painful illness, bravely borne. Most dearly loved husband of Joan (née Hewson) father of John, David and Tricia and loved and loving grandpa of his ten grandchildren. Funeral at St. Andrew's Church, Impington, Cambridgeshire, at Midday on Thursday, 17th September. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to The Alzheimer's Disease Society c/o Cambridge Funeral Services, 617, Newmarket Road, Cambridge, Tel:01223 415255

HODSON - Cecil George of Moyard, Co. Galway. Died September 9th 1998, in his 98th year. Devoted husband of Betty. He will be greatly missed by all his family and his many very dear friends. Funeral service on Saturday September 12th at 2 o'clock in St. Thomas' Church, Moyard (Ballinakill), Co. Galway, followed by cremation. Family flowers only.

KEPPEL - Michael. Adored husband of Victoria and much loved daddy of Caroline, Henrietta, Charlotte and Lucinda.

MACKINTOSH - Peacefully at St. Vincent's hospital Kingussie on September 9th, 1998, Rhona Mackintosh O.B.E. of Ardblair Newtonmore, formerly of Broomfield Essex. Beloved wife of the late James and mother and grandmother. Funeral Service from St. Bride's Church, Newtonmore, on Monday 14th September at 2.00pm, and thereafter to Banchor cemetery. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to The Clan Macpherson Museum.

MURRAY - William ("Willy") Musician, Writer, Photographer, Passed away August 30th after a short illness, aged 48. No star ever shone so bright nor meant as much. In his memory, donations to St. James Hospital, Dublin.

ROSIER - Air Chief Marshal Sir Frederick on September 10th 1998 at Wrexham Maelor Hospital aged 82. Devoted husband of Hettie. Much loved by his children Elizabeth, David, Nicholas and John and by his eleven grandchildren. Funeral service at Llangollen Parish Church on Thursday 17th September at 2.30pm. A memorial service will be held in London at a later date. Enquiries to: W&J Thomas Funeral Directors, Green Lane, Llangollen. LL20 8TB. Tel: 01978 860519. "Be Bold".

THOMAS - Clement Pat (Pat), formerly of Singapore, peacefully at home on 11th September 1998, at dawn with his family around him. Very dearly loved and so much missed by Mei Choo his wife, and Merlin, Pat, Jocelyn, Cliff and Ping Kit. Private Cremation on 18th September, flowers to the house.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

DENISON - A celebration for the life of Michael Denison C.B.E. will be held at 12.00pm on October 5th at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket. All welcome.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

DICKINSON - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and ministry of The Reverend Wilfrid Dickinson, will be held on Sunday September 27th at 3.00pm, at St. Mary's Church, Chigwell.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

BARNARD - In loving memory of Mary Ianthes, who died on 8th March 1993, on this her birthday. Emil.

CROKE - Peter, died September 13th 1986. Pax Tecum. Audrey.

GULLIVER - James Gulliver C.V.O. "A Lion amongst Men" fondest memories, Melanie.

TICKETS FOR SALE

ALL AVAIL. B/G's, R.Stewart, S.Bed, E.Clapton, S.Girls. All Theatre & Sport. A Saints. 0171 536 0781

WED - Debenture seats (50 years) New stadium. Telephone 0836 730730.

FOR SALE

A BIRTHDATE Newspaper Original. Superbly presented. Freephone 0800 906609.

YORK, PENNANT, slate, limestone & terracotta flagstones & floor tiles. Cobble setts, stone troughs, masonry service. Nat & Intemat del. Holley Hextall 01280 850039 (Wilts)

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

CARIBBEAN Bargain. Fantastic 2 week all inclusive holiday for 2 people on beautiful unspoilt island. Own cottage with ocean views from private balcony. Dinner & wine incl Excellent SCUBA diving etc. Private sale. £1500 per person. Call Serena on 0171 828 5364 or 0171 730 9991

ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES

BURMESE LACQUERWARE and Teak chest boxes. Phone: 01962 23431

GIFTS

A BIRTHDATE Newspaper 1847-1997 in presentation folder £19.00 inc p&p. Newsreel year videos avail. Details Tel/Fax 01934 412844 9am 7 days.

FLOWERS BY POST year round. 12 Carnations £10.00, 18 £13.00, 24 £18.00. 12 Carnations and 25 Freesias £18.00. 25 Freesias £10.50. 24 Carnations & 25 Freesias £24.50. Card and message inc. La Neuve Maison Nursery, St Saviour's, Guernsey, CI. Tel 01481 63052. CC's. Fax 01481 66012.

FLATSHARE

ALEXANDRA PARK 2 professionals to share lge 3 bdrm flat. Cl transport & amenities. £85pw + bills each. 0181 340 6509.

FLATMATES (Est 1970). Best flats/houses to share (£80pw+). Landlords/tenants 0171 589 5491

WANTED: Room for prof n/s clean tidy female 27. From mid September. Tel: 0171 384 1942

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased persons whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

KERRIGAN, MARY of 11 Leenagreagh, Tempo Road, Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland (formerly of 51 Great Percy Street, London WC1) died on 15 July 1998 particulars to C. FITTORDOU & CO Solicitors of 279 GRAYS INN ROAD, LONDON WC1X 8QF before 13 November 1998

MASON Lilian Lavinia of Stonehouse Nursing Home, Reading Road, Lower Basildon, Reading, Berkshire died on 14th May 1998. Particulars to Barjeant & Sheppard solicitor(s) of 150 Friar Street, Reading, Berkshire RG1 1HE before 23rd November 1998.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

75 is no age to be leaving home.

Rukba helps elderly people preserve their precious independence by providing them with extra income so they can afford to stay in their own homes. And 900 volunteers offer them something even more valuable than money - friendship. For further information: FREEPOST, 6 Avonmore Road, London W14 8SR or telephone: 0345 58 56 80

Rukba
Helping elderly people stay independent
Reg. Charity. T 75

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EX-SERVICES MENTAL WELFARE SOCIETY

We honour those who gave their lives for our country. But what of those who shared the same horrors and survived ... their minds shattered.

The Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society cares for men and women from the services with varying degrees of mental illness in our convalescent homes and veterans home.

A donation now or a legacy later will help those who have given their most precious gift after life itself.

COMBAT STRESS

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society, Broadway House, The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 1RL. Tel: 0181 543 6333

Charity Reg. No. 206002

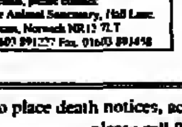
Spoil yourself

THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL of FINE WINE & FOOD

It is a gourmet's paradise.

0171 244 0950

Looking for a friend ...



.... Alice the Camel

Rescued by Hillside Animal Sanctuary to save her from being used as a camel, Alice is desperately seeking a companion. If you can help, or require more details, please contact: Hillside Animal Sanctuary, Hall Lane, Frettenham, Norwich NR12 7LT

CONGRATULATIONS to Nadeem and his beautiful fiancée Saadia on their engagement. Best wishes from Mother, Father, Auntie & Uncle and the rest of the family.

DUNCAN SCOTT MACMILLAN - born Raynes Lane 01.10.1937 - Where are you? Peter Reed seeks information on 0161 874 4152

LINZI - I love you & I'm going to marry you. All my love forever & always, Andy.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

COURT & SOCIAL

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES

Please send Court page announcements by post/fax to: Mrs J Neeson, Court & Social Advertising, The Times, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London, E1 9XS. Tel: 0171 782 7347 Fax: 0171 782 7725

Please include in all correspondence: a signature of either one of the parties concerned or a parent, a daytime and home telephone number and address.

Advertisements for the Court page must be received two working days prior to publication and are accepted subject to confirmation.

Advertising Rate is £17.04 per line inc VAT.

MEET SOMEONE THROUGH

THE TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

CLASSIFIED
0171 481 4000

NEWS

Clinton 'broken-spirited' as Starr report hits the Internet

■ *In 445 pages, the Starr report set out sensational details of the sexual relationship between Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky and urged Congress to remove him from the presidency of the United States.*

■ Kenneth Starr, the special prosecutor, accused Mr Clinton of "*criminal misconduct*" *in trying to cover up his affair and said* that he "engaged in a pattern with conduct inconsistent with his constitutional duty to faithfully execute the laws".

■ Tears welling in his eyes and head bowed, Mr Clinton told religious leaders that he would pursue the path of humility and repentance with a "broken spirit" ..... Pages 1-5, 21-27, 28, 29

Pop pensioners at 35

Pop stars are lobbying the Inland Revenue to allow them to draw on their pensions at 35 ..... Page 1

Bargain boating

A sailor told how Moroccan customs officials seized his £156,000 yacht and sold it for £150 to one of their colleagues ..... Page 3

GCSE marking errors

More than 6,000 teenagers will be given improved GCSE grades after an examination board admitted that errors had been made in three subjects ..... Page 11

Terrorists freed

The first terrorist prisoners walked free as part of Northern Ireland's peace deal, but Republican leaders said that more should have been released ..... Page 12

Look north for laughs

The BBC is searching for a new generation of sitcom writers with a northern accent ..... Page 16

Bad boy of bowls

A bowls international who likes to compare himself to John McEnroe and Paul Gascoigne has been banned for ten years for swearing at officials ..... Page 17

But is it art?

New York's 144 strip clubs, porn shops and peep shows are slowly being closed or forced to move to isolated industrial areas but X-rated material is flourishing in another unlikely venue: the art world ..... Page 18

New PM for Russia

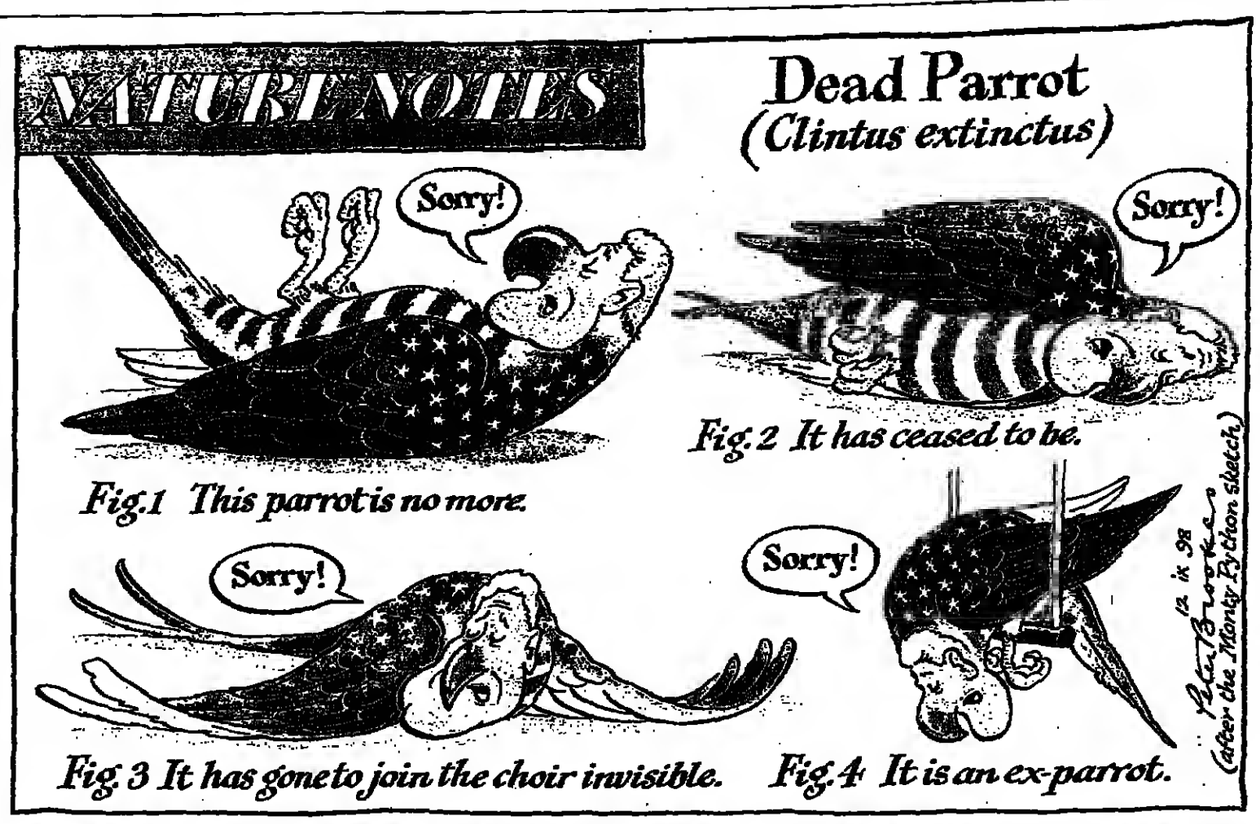
Yevgeni Primakov was voted Russia's Prime Minister after the country's leaders gave a rare show of unity for the new Government ..... Page 19

Fight for soul

A legal tussle is coming to a head over the fate of Giorgio Bassani, Italy's foremost living writer, who is alleged to be suffering from senile dementia ..... Page 20

Trapped farmer cut off his arm

■ A farmer cut off his forearm with a pocket knife to save his life after his hand was trapped in a baling machine. John Mitson, 46, retrieved his mangled hand from the machine and carried the remnants to a nearby house ..... Page 15



FALL OF CLINTON

Martin Fletcher: Bill Clinton *is among the most gifted politicians of his age* ... and might have been one of the most distinguished occupants of the Oval Office had it not been for his human flaws ...

From Oxford Mr Clinton went to Yale Law School, where he spotted his future wife — and most trusted political adviser — in the library. "If you're going to keep staring at me and I'm going to keep staring back we should *at least introduce ourselves.* I'm Hillary Rodham," she *declared* ..... Pages 21-24

OPINION

How America got here: The President has to persuade his country that the charges are excessive and he has really changed as a result of this experience ..... Page 29

Alzheimer's darkness: We hope that John Bayley's interview *will strike chords with* all those who have lost a loved one to Alzheimer's Disease ..... Page 29

LETTERS

President Clinton; National Trust and Snowdon; Wounded Knee massacre; calming rural drivers ..... Page 29

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: I am no particular admirer of Mr Clinton or his claque. But the process to which he has been subjected seems as much an offence against justice as his own frantic attempt to stave off his tormentors ..... Page 28

Simon Barnes: What we have with Keiko is a classic case of devotion worthy of a better cause ..... Page 28

OBITUARIES

T.J.Smith, Australian racehorse trainer; **Lord Marks of Broughton,** Marks & Spencer heir ..... Page 31

BUSINESS

Rich legacy: William Ford Jr *is to take over the reins of the car company that was founded by his great-grandfather,* Henry ..... Page 49

Property: Slough Estates launched a £264 million hostile bid for Bilton ..... Page 49

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 18.0 to close at 5118.6. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 102.9 to 102.7 ... Page 53

WEEKEND MONEY

Best value share-dealing services; self-assessment tax without tears; early mortgage pay-offs ..... Pages 55-64

SPORT

Football: Peter Leaver, the chief executive of the Premier League, is to attend talks with Uefa on the revamping of European club competitions ..... Page 33

Cricket: Leicestershire opened up a 24-point lead in the Britannic Assurance Championship, beating Essex by an innings and 99 runs ..... Page 42

Motor racing: Eddie Irvine was fastest in free practice for the Italian Grand Prix at Monza, a quarter of a second ahead of Michael Schumacher ..... Page 40

SECTIONS

the times magazine

Ghost writer: Tom Wolfe proves hard to fathom ..... Page 18

Bacon's legacy: New bohemians keep the artist's spirit alive ..... Page 32

Out of vogue: The Russian crisis has taken the gloss off Moscow's fashion set ..... Page 40

metro

The big interview: Ed Burns is Hollywood's most-likely-to-everything ..... Page 6

Angst in her pants: Natalie Merchant needs to lighten up ..... Page 10

Writer blocked: Douglas Kennedy's reel-life hell ..... Page 16

WEEKEND

Iris Murdoch: The novelist's husband, John Bayley, tells how he copes with her Alzheimer's Disease ..... Page 1

Day out: Marco Pierre White pulls on his waders ..... Page 5

Property: For £416,000 a year this palace could be yours ..... Page 14

Vision

Seven-day listing of radio and 40 TV channels

Games on! Rising stars in the Commonwealth Games

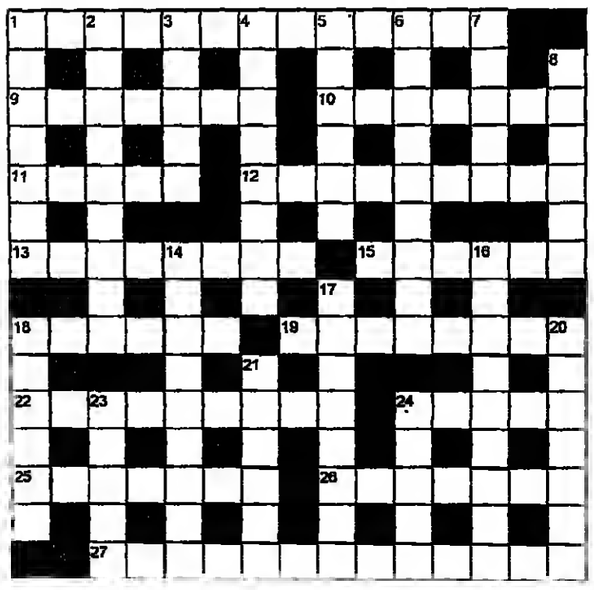
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,895

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address .....

.....

.....



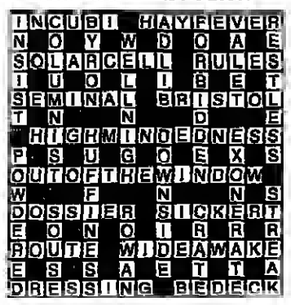
ACROSS

1 Carpenter, for one, producing a flier (6-7).
9 Excursion on which one pleases oneself? (3,4).
10 Sort of fly with rook or another bird (7).
11 Small island church coming to its end (5).
12 Opener in county's team (9).
13 Verse, perhaps, that gives one something to remember (8).
15 Unusually large and troublesome delivery (6).
18 Revise poem by unknown at Scottish festival (6).
19 Flourishes ticket money for football followers (8).
22 How one deals with foot-faults in service (9).
24 Manner of performing steps, say (5).
25 Typical example of back exercises one found heavy work (7).
26 Serving a portion of food (7).
27 Journalist runs into persoo cited in court case (13).

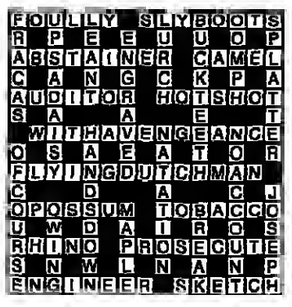
DOWN

1 Amass too many weapons for normal method of delivery in the field (7).
2 Winning measure from brusque person in charge (5,4).
3 Listening device covering most of the ground (5).
4 Friar's broken china cup (8).
5 Rower's bench made from block (6).
6 Difficult to fill with food and liquor (4,5).
7 Love at first sight admitted by one who regrets being king (5).
8 Backslider in the Cabinet, perhaps? (6).
14 Unwell, having bad complexion (3,6).
16 Strange interplay in a shared service (5,4).
17 Title of his play composed about daughter (8).
18 Mouse taken to guy (6).
20 Deceptive movement brings vehicle in on time (7).
21 Fuse has explosive in the middle (6).
23 "Hippy" found in Brazilia cadging (5).
24 Wise man of old cut short farewell (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20889



Solution to Puzzle No 20894



Last week's winners: *Dr A A Beveridge, Glasgow; D J Howells, Salisbury, Wilts; Revd M J Ottaway, Seaford, E Sussex; D Day, Maidstone, Kent; N Trimmins, Horsham, W Sussex.*

©TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1998. Published and printed and licensed for distribution in electronic and all other derivative forms by Times Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XN, telephone 0171-782 5000 and also printed at Kitling Road, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9HN, telephone 0151-546 2000. Saturday, September 12, 1998. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

AA INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions

UK Weather - All regions	0336 444 910
UK Roads - All regions	0336 401 410
Inside M25	0336 401 746
M25 and Link Roads	0336 401 747
National Motorways	0336 401 748
Continental Europe	0336 401 916
Channel crossing	0336 401 388
Motoring to Heathrow & Gatwick airports	0336 407 503

Weather by Fax — The Met. Office

Dial 0336 followed by area number from your fax

West Country	416 334	N. Ireland	416 341
Wales	416 333	London	416 342
Midlands	416 336	National Satellite Weather picture	416 397
East Anglia	416 337		
N. West	416 338		
N. East	416 339		
Scotland	416 340		
Metfax Marine Inshore leisure forecasts			416 398

World City Weather — The Met. Office

153 destinations world wide 6 day forecast

by Phone dial	0336 411216
by Fax (index page)	0336 416333

Motoring

Europe Country by Country	0336 401 885
European fuel costs	0336 401 886
French Motorways	0336 401 887
Seaport information	0336 401 882
Disneyland Paris	0336 401 409
Le Shuttle	0336 401 895

AA Car reports by fax

new and used car reports from the AA menu of 195 cars 0336 416 399

Dial from your fax handset, you may have to set to poll receive mode

Automobile Association Developments Ltd. Norfolk House Priestley Road Basingstoke RG24 9NY

Calls are charged at 50p per minute at all times.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 6.30 am — Sun sets: 7.23 pm

Moon sets 1.53 pm — Moon rises 11.09 pm

Last quarter tomorrow

London 7.23 pm to 6.32 am
Bristol 7.32 pm to 6.42 am
Edinburgh 7.39 pm to 6.40 am
Manchester 7.33 pm to 6.38 am
Penzance 7.41 pm to 6.55 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 6.32 am — Sun sets: 7.20 pm

Moon sets 2.58 pm — Moon rises 11.57 pm

Last quarter today

London 7.20 pm to 6.33 am
Bristol 7.30 pm to 6.43 am
Edinburgh 7.36 pm to 6.42 am
Manchester 7.30 pm to 6.40 am
Penzance 7.39 pm to 6.57 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	5.11	4.2	17.48	3.9
Avonmouth	11.03	12.1	23.33	11.7
Belfast	2.48	3.5	15.21	3.3
Cardiff	10.49	11.2	23.19	10.9
Devonport	3.43	5.2	22.10	5.0
Dover	2.45	6.4	15.07	6.4
Dublin	3.22	4.2	15.58	3.8
Falmouth	9.14	5.0	21.41	4.8
Greenock	4.18	3.6	16.37	3.5
Harwich	3.37	3.9	15.54	4.0
Holyhead	3.03	5.5	14.32	5.1
Hull (Albert D)	10.06	8.5	22.39	8.0
Ilfracombe	9.54	8.4	22.24	8.2
King's Lynn	10.13	6.5	22.47	5.9
Leith	6.33	5.4	19.05	5.1
Liverpool	2.54	9.2	15.19	8.6
London Bridge	5.41	6.8	17.56	6.9
Lowestoft	1.11	2.4	13.24	2.6
Margate	3.50	4.6	16.01	4.7
Milford Haven	10.12	6.4	22.42	6.2
Newquay	9.09	6.4	21.40	6.2
Oban	9.17	3.5	22.10	3.3
Penzance	8.33	5.1	21.01	5.0
Portland	10.39	1.8	23.00	1.7
Portsmouth	3.06	4.5	15.39	4.5
Shoreham	2.58	6.1	15.23	6.1
Southampton	2.27	4.5	14.57	4.4
Swansea	10.13	8.9	22.43	8.7
Tees	7.37	5.3	20.15	5.0
Walton-On-Naze	3.32	4.1	15.50	4.2

All times GMT Heights in metres

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: St Catherine's Point, Isle of Wight, 20C (68F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, 11C (52F); highest rainfall: Colwyn Bay, Conwy, 0.62in, highest sunshine: Penzance Cornwall, 8.7hr.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997

FORECAST

☐ **General:** heavy showers will spread *eastwards across England and Wales.* Later there will be fewer showers and better spells of sunshine. Northern Ireland and western Scotland will have heavy bursts of rain with thunderstorms possible. *Eastern Scotland will have* sunny spells and isolated showers.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England:** heavy showers will move east. *Brighter later with fewer showers.* Moderate westerly winds. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England:** occasional heavy showers and sunny spells. Fresh west to northwest winds. Max 16C (61F)

☐ **W Midlands, S Wales:** heavy showers clearing but more rain later. A moderate to fresh west to southwest wind. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England, NE England:** *heavy showers clearing* but more rain returning. Moderate to fresh variable winds. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **Borders:** *sunny spells and scattered* showers. Variable winds. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney:** sunny spells and scattered showers. *Winds north to* northeasterly, moderate to fresh. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland:** heavy rain clearing to sunny *spells and scattered showers. Fresh and* variable winds. Max 14C (57F).

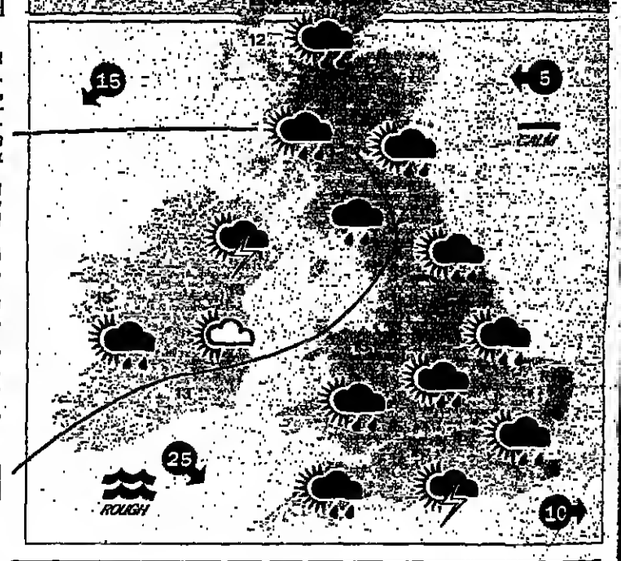
☐ **Central Highlands:** sunny spells and showers. Winds north to northeasterly, moderate to fresh. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Shetland:** bright, but steady rain later. Moderate to fresh northerly winds. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** bright or sunny intervals and showers, some heavy. Wind fresh or strong, west or northwest. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **Outlook:** cool and breezy with sunny spells and sudden showers.

MOON TODAY



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

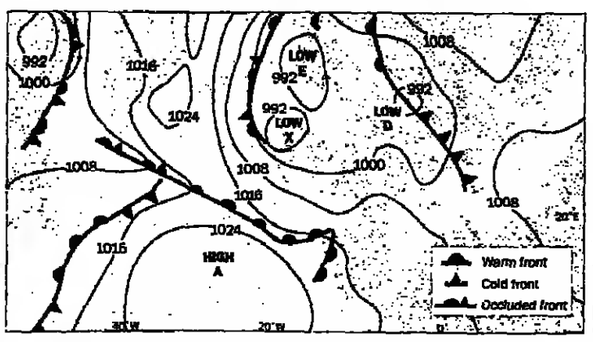
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	4.5	0.07	14	57	r	Lerwick	2.8	0.03	11	52	sh
Anglesey	7.2	0.15	15	59	s	Leuchars	1.9	0.04	15	59	sh
Aspatria	5.3	0.03	15	59	sh	Littlehmptn	6.5	0.01	18	64	s
Aviemore	3.8	0.31	13	55	sh	London	7.7	-	18	64	b
Belfast	4.3	0.07	14	57	sh	Lowestoft	5.6	0.02	20	68	sh
Birmingham	5.2	0.23	15	59	sh	Manchester	5.2	0.12	16	61	sh
Bognor R	8.1	-	19	66	s	Margate	4.8	0.01	17	63	r
Bournem'th	8.1	-	18	64	s	Minehead	X				
Bristol	5.9	0.02	17	63	sh	Morecambe	5.6	0.19	15	59	sh
Buxton	4.5	0.42	13	55	h	Newcastle	0.1	0.43	14	57	sh
Cardiff	X	0.38	17	63	sh	Newquay	X				
Clacton	7.7	0.09	15	59	s	Norwich	4.0	0.04	17	63	s
Cleethorpes	2.8	0.01	16	61	b	Oxford	5.2	0.01	17	63	sh
Colwyn Bay	5.2	0.62	14	57	b	Penzance	8.7	0.18	18	64	s
Cromer	4.9	0.04	16	61	s	Poole	7.1	-	18	64	s
Dunbar	2.9	0.14	15	59	b	Prestatyn	X				
Eastbourne	5.8	0.06	17	63	b	Ross on Wye	6.9	0.20	16	61	sh
Edinburgh	2.9	0.12	15	59	sh	Salcombe	7.6	0.15	17	63	s
Eskdalemuir	1.7	0.06	13	55	sh	Saumb Snd	4.3	0.16	16	61	s
Exmouth	5.8	0.07	16	61	sh	Scarboro'	2.1	0.01	15	59	c
Falmouth	X					Shrewsbury	5.2	0.09	15	59	sh
Fishguard	5.1	0.23	13	55	sh	Skegness	5.1	-	18	64	s
Folkestone	6.6	0.01	17	63	sh	Southend	8.5	-	19	66	b
Glasgow	7.5	0.01	14	57	sh	Southport	X				
Guernsey	3.3	0.13	17	63	sh	Southsea	5.8	-	19	66	s
Hastings	4.8	0.12	17	63	sh	Stornoway	5.6	0.14	13	55	sh
Hayling I.	7.9	0.01	18	64	s	Swanage	8.3	0.05	17	63	b
Herne Bay	3.7	-	18	64	b	Teignmouth	5.6	0.01	17	63	b
Hove	6.4	0.01	X	X	b	Tenby	6.7	0.18	15	59	sh
Hunstanton	4.6	0.04	16	61	b	Tiree	6.2	0.15	14	57	sh
Isle of Man	7.0	0.15	15	59	sh	Torquay	6.1	0.02	18	64	s
Isle of Wight	7.8	0.07	17	63	s	Tynemouth	X				
Jersey	2.5	0.36	15	59	r	Weston s Mare	5.2	0.13	17	63	sh
Kinloss	1.9	0.15	13	55	sh	Weymouth	8.7	0.08	17	63	sh
Leeds	8.2	0.02	16	61	b						

ABROAD

Ajaccio	26	79	s	Cologne	22	72	t	Madrid	28	82	s
Akrotiri	32	90	s	C'phagn	16	61	r	Majorca	28	82	s
Alex'dria	33	91	s	Corfu	29	84	s	Malaga	29	84	s
Algiers	31	88	s	Dublin	12	54	d	Malta	X		
Amst'dm	19	66	c	Dubrovnik	26	79	s	Melb'rne	X		
Athens	29	84	t	Faro	28	82	s	Mexico C	22	72	t
Bahrain	36	97	t	Florence	30	86	s	Miami	32	90	t
Bangkok	32	90	t	Frankfurt	18	64	t	Milan	28	82	s
Barbados	31	88	s	Funchal	24	75	c	Montreal	20	68	s
Barcelona	27	81	t	Geneva	27	81	s	Moscow	20	68	s
Beijing	32	90	s	Gibraltar	27	81	s	Munich	25	77	s
Beirut	32	90	s	Helsinki	14	57	r	Nairobi	27	81	t
Belgrade	25	77	f	Hong K	26	79	t	Naples	30	86	s
Berlin	23	73	s	Innsbrck	25	77	s	N Delhi	35	95	t
Bermuda	28	82	s	Istanbul	24	75	s	N York	21	70	s
Biarritz	16	64	d	Jeddah	37	99	s	Nice	26	79	s
Bordeaux	22	72	c	Jo'burg	24	75	s	Oslo	18	64	t
Brussels	20	68	t	L Palmas	26	79	s	Paris	21	70	t
Budapest	22	72	t	Le Tquet	16	61	f	Perth	X		
B.Aires	20	68	t	Lisbon	23	73	t	Prague	26	79	t
Cairo	38	100	s	Locarno	21	70	s	Reykjavik	6	43	s
Cape Tn	15	59	s	L Angels	23	73	s	Rhodes	29	84	s
Chicago	23	73	s	Luxembg	19	66	c	Rio de J	19	66	t
Ch'church	16	61	X	Luxor	43	109	s	Riyadh	41	106	s
Roma	28	82	s	Salzburg	26	79	s
Seattle	17	63	s	S Frisco	17	63	s
Santiago	11	52	c	S Paulo	X		
Seoul	32	90	s	Sing'por	31	88	t
St'kholm	20	68	sh	Strasb'rg	19	66	t
Sydney	20	68	t	Tangier	25	77	s
Tel Aviv	34	93	s	Tenerife	27	81	s
Tokyo	31	88	s	Toronto	22	72	s
Tunis	31	88	s	Valencia	29	84	s
Vanc'ver	18	61	c	Venice	24	75	s
Vienna	20	68	t	Warsaw	25	77	s
Wash'ton	24	75	s	Wel'ngton	14	57	X
Zurich	21	70	c				

Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday. X = not available



Changes to chart above from noon: low E will drift slowly east, with little change; low X will run quickly southeast and fill; low D is expected to drift northeast and fill, high A will decline in situ

CHRISTMAS IN LAPLAND

Fly by 757 to Ivalo for the day • meet Father Christmas • luncheon • snowmobile and reindeer sleigh rides • depart from Gatwick, Manchester or Stansted on 12,19,20,21,22 or 25 December • 757 return from £299

757 to Ivalo on 13 Dec. • all activities plus Husky dogs sleigh ride • Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £999

Paris, New York or Barbados

Eurostar First Class to Paris on 10 or 20 Dec. • two nights • city tour • Xmas shopping • Concorde return £699

Eurostar to Paris on 4 Dec • two nights • Concorde to New York • three nights • city tours • Xmas luncheon cruise • helicopter • theatre • Concorde to Heathrow £2,999

BA 747 to New York for any weekend • four nights at New York Palace • Concorde to Heathrow £2,699

Concorde supersonic to Barbados on 23 December • ten nights at Hilton • Concorde to Heathrow £5,999, or £6,999 staying half-board at the Tamarind Cove

Oriana & Orient-Express

Orient-Express to Southampton on 11 October • two night Oriana cruise to La Coruna • tour Santiago de Compostela • Concorde to Heathrow £999

Orient-Express to Southampton on 16 October • four night Oriana cruise to Tenerife via Madeira • Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £1,699

Orient-Express to Southampton on 15 November • six night Oriana cruise to Tenerife via Lanzarote and Gran Canaria • Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £1,999

Eight night Oriana cruise on 22 December from Gran Canaria to Tenerife via Dakar, St. Vincent and Lanzarote • Concorde to Heathrow £2,499

Concorde to Tenerife on 30 December • five night Oriana cruise to Southampton via Madeira (for New Year) and Vigo • Orient-Express to Victoria £2,499

For our full colour brochure, please telephone:

0181-992 4477

or write to

SUPERLATIVE TRAVEL

43, Woodhurst Road, London, W3 6SS

ABTA V1483

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

GLOVES OFF
Stewart on the future of English cricket
PAGE 42

DAILY DOSE
My tears for Manchester United
PAGE 36

The men's semi-finals in New York
PAGE 35

Dickie Bird on a life in cricket

BEAT THE HOLIDAY FRAUDSTERS
PAGE 64

TAX: LAST MINUTE HINTS
PAGE 57

WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY SPORT 13

SEPTEMBER 12 1998

WHAT EVERY STARSTRUCK CLUB NEEDS — A SUGAR DADDY

MATCHES MADE IN FOOTBALL HEAVEN

ENGAGED

Liverpool and Granada
Coronation Street makers, hotel owners and partners in OnDigital

Manchester United and BSkyB
Europe's largest pay-TV group

Rangers and Time Warner
Media giant whose interests range from CNN to Bugs Bunny

Celtic and Mirror Group
In addition to the Daily Mirror, it is the largest media group in Scotland

Anderlecht and DirecTV
Pay-TV group backed by the Hughes aircraft corporation

Ajax - IMG
Mark McCormack's sports rights company which already controls tennis and golf

ENGAGED

Arsenal and Carlton
Makers of The Bill and owners of half of OnDigital venture

Borussia Dortmund and Kirsch
Privately owned group whose digital TV venture recently hit trouble

MARRIED

Paris St Germain and Canal Plus
Pornography and sport were the engines behind the success of this pay-TV giant

Bayern Munich and Bertelsmann
Music, publishing and TV giant with global ambitions

MARRIED

Juventus and Fiat
The car group owned by the Agnellis, who control Juve

Dynamo Kiev and Microsoft
The geeks' geek, Bill Gates, moves to push his Web-TV venture

Marseilles and Adidas
It's saviour, Robert Louis-Dreyfus, is now president of the troubled southern team

Inter Milan and Nike
Who go where Ronaldo goes and control the Brazilian national team

Porto and Teleglobo
There's an awful lot of TV in Brazil, and these guys own most of it

AC Milan and Fininvest
The media business of Silvio Berlusconi, former Italian president

DATING

Real Madrid and Telefonica
Spain's answer to BT, with big cable TV interests

Dynamo Bucharest and CME
Founded by heir to the Estee Lauder fortune and snapping up most of Eastern European TV

DATING

Barcelona and Sony
Fell out with George Michael but could make Barca its PlayStation

AEK Athens and Enic
Building stakes across Europe having been started by billionaire Joe Lewis

Global game that is followed by millions

Jason Nissé on who might become the real power players as the most popular sport in the world shapes up for the next century

IT IS ten to five on Saturday September 15, 2001. And it is time for the classified football results: "BSkyB 2 Teleglobo 0; Granada 4 Time Warner 1; Microsoft 1 Carlton Communications 3; Nike 2 Wimbledon 2 . . . and now we have the pools check and the stock market reaction."

What started with the enthusiasm for "muscular Christianity" of a few Victorian clergymen or some chaps with handlebar moustaches getting together for a knock-around in a railway siding is now a business worth billions of dollars. It is a business that makes fortunes for players, managers, agents, media experts, club directors and, now, shareholders. As multinational corporations move to take control of sport, the map of Europe is changing forever. But how will it look after the shake-out? Perhaps something like the above.

According to the rumour mill — which is faster than Darren Anderton and about as reliable — BSkyB and Carlton will not be the only big businesses buying clubs. Granada, Canal Plus, Time Warner, IMG, Uncle Tom Cobleigh and all are supposed to be eyeing up every team from Bayern Munich to Bolton Wanderers. And the reason is that football is seen as a ticket to winning the battle for viewers as television goes digital.

This brave new world will bring hundreds of channels, many charging viewers for every minute that they watch. What the successful pay-TV companies — Time Warner's Home Box Office and BSkyB — have learnt is that only two things guarantee florins in the coffers are big Hollywood movies and sport. And outside the United States, only three sports really deliver viewers — boxing, golf and football.

Boxing has been pretty well sewn up by the television companies while golf is owned by large sports management companies. Football, though, represents uncharted waters. The competitions have been run by national federations plus Uefa and Fifa.

Outside Great Britain, only a handful of clubs are quoted companies. Many are not even businesses, being owned by co-operatives and sports associations. Fifa rules do not allow one company to own more than one team — though this is under challenge after Uefa tried to stop Rangers, Sparta Prague, Vicenza and AEK Athens all playing in European competitions because they have a common shareholder, the investment group, Enic. Enic went to the European Court and obtained an injunction to allow the teams to play ahead of a court hearing that could have as big an impact on football as the Bosman ruling.

In Britain, the process has been given extra impetus by three events — the ending of the BSkyB contract with the Premier League in 2001; the Restrictive Practices Court case that could stop the 20 teams in the Premier League negotiating as one and force them to strike their own TV deals; and the launch of the rival digital services — BSkyB's Sky Digital and OnDigital, backed by Carlton and Granada, this autumn.

Aston Villa and Leeds United were yesterday admitting to talks, but saying these probably would not lead to a bid. Liverpool's controlling shareholder, David Moores, was adamant in saying that he was not selling to anyone, while in Glasgow, Fergus McCann, the Celtic chairman, said that fans will have the change to match any bid from big business.

There have been angry reactions to BSkyB's purchase of Manchester United and Carlton's moves on Arsenal, but fans only have to look towards Italy, the best league in the world, to see that big business and football can live together. Of the top teams, AC Milan is owned by Silvio Berlusconi, the media mogul and former president of Italy, while Juventus is controlled by Fiat's Agnelli family, Parma by the Parmalat food group and Lazio, the only Italian club to have a stock market listing, by Sergio Cragnotti, a food entrepreneur.

In France, the backing of the pay-TV group, Canal Plus, has been the making of Paris Saint Germain. IMG tried to take over Marseilles a couple of years ago, only to be outbid by Robert Louis-Dreyfus, the former chief executive of Saatchi & Saatchi and now head of Adidas. No prizes for guessing whose kit Marseilles wear.

Though Arsène Wenger, the French manager of Arsenal, points out that Canal Plus and PSG has been almost a perfect marriage, it is clear that business and sport need success to make the relationship gel. Lazio recently said it would sue the Italian FA for around £5 million because of an injury sustained by Alessandro Nesta, their defender, playing for Italy.

AC Milan's decline on the field is seen as one of the reasons why Media Partners, a company with close links to Berlusconi, is trying to create a Super League that would guarantee AC Milan a place in Europe, even if it is failing in Italy.

Ouside Britain, it is clear the biggest prizes are in Germany and Spain, though what media mogul could resist the grand traditions of Ajax or even, despite the collapse of former Eastern Bloc economies, the evocative Dynamo Kiev.

Barcelona and Real Madrid are giant organisations, who can deliver whole regions of TV viewers. Germany is more complex, with top clubs such as Borussia Dortmund not even incorporated as trading companies and the largest pay-TV group, Kirsch, facing a financial crisis.

Fighting for a place in the Europe United starting line-up will be Time Warner — which already has an interest in Rangers through Enic — another American outfit.

Oliver Holt 37
Premiership match guide 38
Frank Leboeuf 39
Carlton doubt 49

DirecTV, Teleglobo, of Brazil and Microsoft, which is rolling out its interactive TV venture, Web TV, across Europe. Do not discount the likes of IMG and Interpublic, the advertising giant that recently bought Alan Pascoe's sports management business. And never forget that Nike virtually controls the Brazil national side, so it can hardly be ignored in the battle for influence over potentially the most lucrative sports market in the world.

But where there are winners, there will be losers. Despite all the cash sloshing around football, the bottom line is that the 20 teams in the Premiership actually lost money in the 1995-6 and 199-97 seasons. The turnover of the Nationwide League first division is less than a third of that of the Premiership. Only a couple of the Serie A teams in Italy actually make a profit.

And the only organisation likely to bid for Southampton is Crisis at Christmas.

Clubs convene after breakaway threat

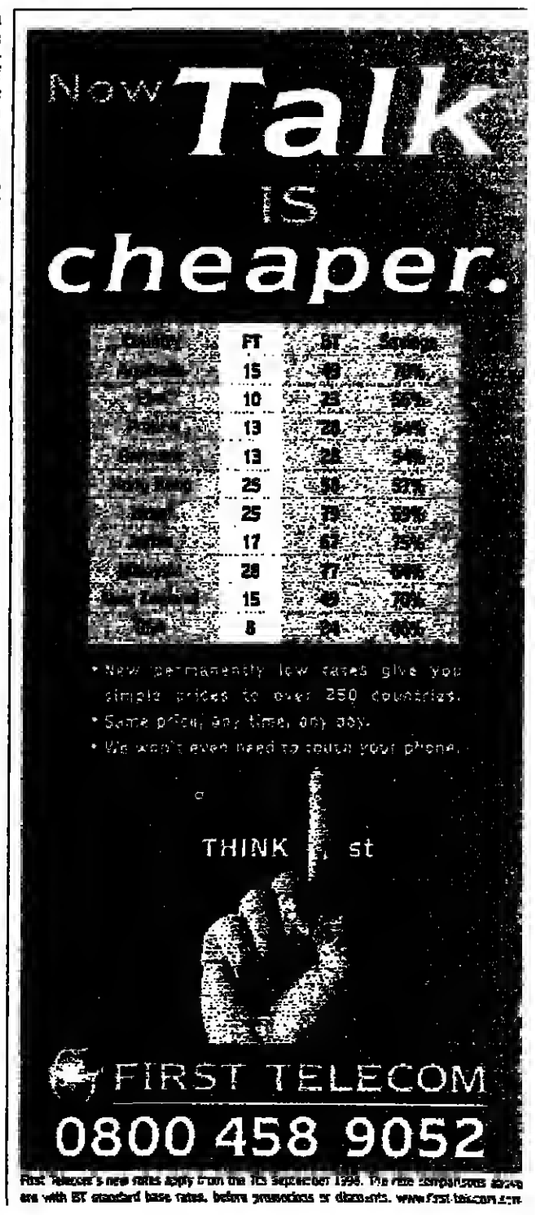
By Russell Kempson

PETER LEAVER, chief executive of the FA Premier League, and Rick Parry, chief executive of Liverpool, are to attend discussions with officials from Uefa, football's European governing body, in Geneva on Monday. Top of the agenda will be the revamping of the three European club competitions.

Senior figures from the Italian and German leagues will also be at the first meeting of the Uefa Task Force, which has been set up to head off the possibility of a breakaway European Super League (ESL). The meeting will be chaired by Senes Erzik, of Turkey.

Liverpool are one of six clubs to have been invited to join the task force — entitled "European Club Football 2000" — along with Juventus, Bayern Munich, Ajax, FC Porto and Lyons. Uefa has set up the group to reform its club competitions and thereby avoid the potential breakaway league, which would comprise Europe's leading sides.

Gerhard Aigner, Uefa's general secretary, met with Karel van Miert, the European Union's competition commissioner, in Brussels yesterday. They discussed the implications of the ESL, which had been proposed by Media Partners, the Italian-based marketing group. Arsenal and Manchester United were involved in the initial ESL talks but their interest cooled.



The cat's whiskers: Sprite | ... from our principles

ATHLETICS: AMERICAN SPRINTERS ARE QUICK TO MAKE THE MOST OF RAREFIED ATMOSPHERE IN JOHANNESBURG

Jones hits heights in World Cup whirlwind

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT IN JOHANNESBURG

REMARKABLE sprinting, albeit at altitude, marked the opening day of the World Cup here yesterday as Marion Jones recorded the third-fastest 200 metres by a woman and Obadele Thompson moved up to join Linford Christie as the joint-seventh quickest 100 metres runner. The least said about the Great Britain team the better, but, like Wimbledon at West Ham United, they could turn things around in the second half.

The programme is poorly balanced from Britain's point of view, with the events in which they expect to score heavily being held today and tomorrow. Only Dwain Chambers, in the 100 metres, was thought to have a chance of a top-three place on the first day and so it proved. After six of the 20 events, the British men were seventh of eight teams.

In a competition that pits the five continents against the three strongest countries in the world, only Asia were below the British men. Britain has finished second in the past two World Cups, but, hit by ten withdrawals in the past fortnight, third or fourth place would be a creditable achievement.

That may still be possible because, bad though the score looks, the team has more points than expected. Max Jones, the performance director, had said beforehand that it was important for the lesser athletes to pick up points against the rankings and more were gained than were lost yesterday.

Chambers, with the assistance of the thin air of altitude and a false start that was not recalled, will go into the record books as the second-fastest Briton behind Christie. He clocked 10.03sec in the wake of the 9.87sec that gave Thompson maximum points for the Americans and the 9.92 that earned Sean Ogunkoya, from Africa, second place.

Ranked fourth in the field, Chambers gave Britain a bonus point by taking third. Both Chambers and Marc Blume, from Germany, beat the starter's gun on official reaction time, but the race was not called back. A reaction time quicker than 0.10sec is considered to be anticipation of the gun rather than response to it, but the starter can ignore the signal in his headphones if he chooses.

In the six men's events yesterday, Chambers was the only Briton in the first three. Andy Hart and Anthony Borsumato joined him as athletes who finished higher than predicted, while only Steve Phillips, who was eighth in the long jump, dropped a point. Mark Proctor, in the shot, and Keith Cullen, in the 5,000 metres, finished a predictable fifth.

Hart was sixth in the 800 metres and Borsumato seventh in the 400 metres hurdles. Well down they may have been, but an athlete ranked eighth who finishes seventh has played his part in the team effort as much the favourite who wins.

The 800 metres was won by Nils Schumann, the German who took advantage of Wilson Kipketer's loss of form in Budapest to win the European title.

Here Schumann claimed more notable scalps, among them Norberto Tellez, who has replaced Alberto Juantorena as the Cuban record-holder and who was runner-up to Kipketer in the world championships last year.

Jones, from the United States, moved closer to Florence Griffith-Joyner's world 200 metres record of 21.34sec, set ten years ago this month. She recorded 21.62sec, despite being drawn on the outside lane and running into a wind. These disadvantages minimised the altitude benefit for Jones.

Barely leading entering the straight, Jones then pulled away. She said later: "I am doing the 100 tomorrow and hopefully I will run faster than I have ever run before. On Sunday, I want to long jump further than ever."

The meeting was poorly attended, which suggested that the locals were not impressed by the statement of Primo Nebiolo, the International Amateur Athletic Federation president, who had described the World Cup on Thursday as "the most important athletics event in the world this year". Or by Danie Malan, a leading South African organiser, who had said: "We are going to have a bumper crowd."

Crowd or not, the women's 400 metres hurdlers put on a spectacular show to open the track programme. It resulted in Nezha Bidouane, from Morocco, setting an African record of 52.96sec, the perfect start for a continent hosting the event for the first time.

MARK THOMPSON / ALLSPORT

Proctor, who fulfilled Britain's expectations by finishing in fifth place in the shot, launches into another effort in front of the sparse crowd

ROWING

Robertson factor can reap rich rewards

FROM MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT IN COLOGNE

LEN ROBERTSON, the Great Britain coach, guided two crews through to the world championship finals in 1997 and they both won medals. This year, his lightweight eight qualified last Tuesday via their repechage after they "had a stumble" on Sunday. Yesterday, his lightweight four booked their final place with another row that was nothing like their efforts earlier in the season.

The lightweights were in fourth place until the halfway mark, had passed Russia and Ireland by 1,500 metres and closed on Australia, the winners, in the last quarter. The confidence of the four has been transformed since Lucerne; the confidence of the eight, unbeaten internationally this season, seems to be returning. The 11 British crews in finals this weekend look unlikely to repeat the record of eight medals of 1997, but several could materialise.

Nobody, probably not even the Australians, would doubt that the British coxless four will win, producing Steve Redgrave's ninth world championship gold medal and Matthew Pinsent's sixth. However, the leeway that the men's four possess is not matched by the women's pair of Dot Blackie and Cath Bishop and the women's double scull of Miriam Batten and Gillian Lindsay in their events. The pair, both World Cup-winners, have Canada, the world champions, and four other equally talented crews lining up against them.

"Any of the six could win a medal," Blackie said. "We plan to be in the pack and work to our strength in the second half." It is her first world final.

The women's lightweight pair, who were easy winners in Lucerne, suffered a blow when Caroline Hobson's back seized last Tuesday. Jo Nitsch will substitute for Hobson today and will also race in the lightweight quad tomorrow.

Britain's three scullers have a tough day today. Peter Haining, the world lightweight champion from 1993 to 1995, is enjoying his comeback appearance in a world championship final. Karsten Nielsen, of Denmark, who holds the world title, and Stefano Basalini, of Italy, look to be the top men, leaving Haining in a pack for bronze.

Guin Batten's winning semi-final performance has put her in pole position, lane No 3, something that she did not achieve in the Olympic Games in 1996 and the world championships in 1997.

MEN: Lightweight coxless pairs: Semi-final A (first three qualify for final): 1, Italy 6min 42.90sec; 2, Germany 6:45.56; 3, Australia 6:46.91; 4, Great Britain (R Strange, A Gray) 6:53.95; 5, South Africa 7:00.58; 6, Japan 7:04.03. Great Britain qualify for B Final. Semi-final B: 1, Switzerland 6:40.04; 2, France 6:41.98; 3, Chile 6:42.73; 4, Denmark 6:44.60; 5, Mexico 6:55.76; 6, United States 7:00.18. Lightweight coxless fours (first three qualify): Semi-final A: 1, Denmark 6:09.12; 2, France 6:07.18; 3, Austria 6:10.11; 4, Italy 6:13.07; 5, Holland 6:13.79; 6, Canada 6:16.92. Semi-final B: 1, Australia 6:02.69; 2, Great Britain 6:04.77 (J Brown, J McNiven, O Lemon, J Warnock); 3, Spain 6:04.82; 4, United States 6:06.65; 5, Russia 6:11.54; 6, Ireland 6:23.33. Lightweight double scull: Semi-final A (first two qualify for final): 1, Italy 6:22.66; 2, Switzerland 6:23.93; 3, United States 6:31.40; 4, Denmark 6:36.06; 5, Canada 6:38.38; 6, Greece 6:41.31. Semi-final B: 1, Holland 6:27.87; 2, France 6:28.50; 3, Japan 6:29.86; 4, Czech Republic 6:31.30; 5, Great Britain (T Male, M Beechey) 6:34.22; 6, Spain 6:35.26. Great Britain qualify for C Final. Semi-final C: 1, Poland 6:29.09; 2, Germany 6:25.00; 3, Australia 6:33.71; 4, Finland 6:34.23; 5, Sweden 6:37.99; 6, Portugal 6:45.14. Women: Lightweight double sculls: Semi-final A (first three qualify for final) 1, Italy 7:12.24; 2, Denmark 7:13.63; 3, Romania 7:14.14; 4, Spain 7:22.12; 5, Greece 7:26.69; 6, China 7:29.83. Semi-final B: 1, United States 7:05.86; 2, Germany 7:09.40; 3, Poland 7:10.98; 4, Great Britain (T Langlands, J Hall) 7:16.39; 5, Sweden 7:19.54; 6, Canada 7:30.06. Great Britain qualify for B Final.

GOLF: ROSE STRUGGLES TO FIND THE FORM THAT MADE HIM A STAR WHILE WOOSNAM, AN OLD MASTER, IS FINDING HIS FEET AGAIN

Rowe spoils the form book

BY MEL WEBB

TWO DOWN with five to play and never won yet, goes the old golfing saw. Well, yesterday, Philip Rowe was, and he promptly knocked the ancient adage somewhere into the middle of next week by turning the deficit round effectively to win the men's home international series for England.

Rowe, 19, of West Cornwall, was the last Englishman on the course at Royal Porthcawl in the rubber that would decide if England would rack up their sixth victory in succession in the series or would lose that proud record to Ireland, their opponents on this final day and the only team who could beat them.

Rowe was not only two adrift with five to play, he was three down with four left to David Jones, the 18-year-old Irish boys' champion and Great Britain and Ireland boys' captain, who was playing senior representative golf for the first time. With the match poised at 7-7, this was the decider, but Rowe dug deep to win all four and complete victory by one hole.

Gary Wolstenholme and the English amateur champion, Mark Sanders, England's most successful pair, gave their team the start it needed in the top foursomes match. They were rarely in trouble against Garth McGimpsey, the former Walker Cup player, and Ken Kearney, and won 3-2.

The ascendancy swung Ireland's way in the next four matches, however. They won the second, third and fifth rubbers and even got an unlikely half in the fourth to give them a 3½ to 1½ lead going into the singles in the afternoon.

England's Kenneth Ferrie and Ben Mason were one up with one to play against Ireland's Noel Fox and Paddy Gribben, but made a complete mess of things. They missed the green and had to take a penalty drop from deep rough and still could not get the ball on the putting surface, finally conceding a half point to their opponents who, 15 minutes earlier, must have thought they were heading for certain, if narrow, defeat.

Meanwhile, Scotland completed their worst performance in this competition since the War. They were handsomely beaten into last place by Wales, who won 11½ to 3½.

Consecutive victories for England

BY PATRICIA DAVIES

THE wind relented by a wheen of knots on the final day of the women's home internationals at Burnham and Berrow yesterday and England completed a seventh consecutive victory by defeating Scotland to add to wins against Ireland and Wales.

The Scots shared the foursomes, but needed heroics to thwart the Auld Enemy. Scotland were given a brave-hearted start by Isabel Crawford, their captain, who sported a blue and white jester's cap, a remnant from the World Cup in France. She deserved at least a point for verve.

Ireland, who were nearly very impressive all week, took care of Wales by sweeping the foursomes. In the singles, the Welsh used Vicki Thomas, the veteran, as a caddy in the vain hope that her experience would help Natalee Evans to stay on top of her game.

Deana Rushworth, a reserve called up at the last minute, was one of England's stars. On her international debut, she did not hit a ball except in practice but bore it all with fortitude.

Claire Dowling, the captain of the Vagliano Trophy and Espirito Santo sides, was on hand yesterday, but her trio for the latter — in Chile in November — has still to be announced. General consensus suggested Becky Morgan, of Wales, and the England duo of Kim Rostron and Rebecca Hudson, but it is the selectors who do the picking.

Woosnam enjoys purple patch as Rose suffers

BY JOHN HOPKINS GOLF CORRESPONDENT

IF THE flowers that dot the Marriott Forest of Arden golf course were roses, their petals could have been used to pelt Ian Woosnam in recognition of the imperious nature of his golf over its outward half. Woosnam played a blinding nine holes in the second round of the One 2 One British Masters. His 66 was nine strokes better than his first round and, at three under par, he is three strokes behind Darren Clarke and Carl Suneson, the joint-leaders.

For Justin Rose, though, the same holes and the same flowers could have been bordering a bed of thorns. Once again, Rose will have the weekend off in which to ponder what has gone wrong with a game that seemed so easy to him last July when he finished fourth at the Open.

Many golfers have taken 28 strokes, but very few for nine holes. A purple patch, such as Woosnam had when he played 11 holes in nine under, is a welcome burst of form for the 40-year-old, but it did little more than bring a slight smile to his face.

"It's all down to the putting," he said with a slightly worldly wise air. Woosnam's putting is traditionally the weakest part of his game and he has been practising by climbing on to his snooker table at home and aiming down an imaginary line connecting the brown, blue, pink and black spots.

His birdies at the first four holes came by holing putts of 10ft or less. On the 7th, all 526 yards of it, he reached the green with a drive and a three-wood and sank a putt of 12ft for an eagle. He used a six-iron on the 8th and hit the ball to 5ft. The 9th is a hard hole, the longest par four on the course, and Lee Westwood ran up a six there. Woosnam's drive split the fairway, a three-iron ended 25ft away and the putt went in for his sixth birdie of the day.

In this form, Woosnam is a wonder to watch, his swing all oily, effortless power. At such times, he has the capacity to make the game look ridiculously easy.

Rose: thorns in his side

Rose, on the other hand, has been making the game look rather hard lately. His 80 in the first round was like a ball and chain around his leg in the second, but at least he made a spirited attempt yesterday, at one point getting to four under par. Then he arrived on the 6th tee. When his hooked drive hit a tree and rebounded into play, Stuart Bradley, his caddie, thought: "Hello, perhaps our luck's turning."

But then Rose bogeyed that hole and did likewise on the 9th, his 18th, for a 70 and a total of 150, six over par. It was his sixth tournament as a professional, the sixth in which he has played only two rounds.

"Justin's golf was much better today," Ken Rose, his father, said. "He hit 13 greens and took 28 putts compared with only six greens and 30 putts on Thursday. He made six mental mistakes on Thursday and only one today. His pre-shot tempo was constant. That is a good sign. From the moment he selected his club until he hit the ball, he took ten seconds on every stroke. In the first round he was varying between ten and 17 seconds."

The road to a career as a professional on the European Tour is getting harder for Rose. On Tuesday, he will go to a 54-hole pre-qualifying competition at Chart Hills in Kent and, if he finishes among the top ten of the approximate 120 competitors there, he will win a place in the final qualifying school in Spain in November.

It does look as though Rose turned professional too soon. His driving is not accurate enough, nor is his short game deft enough and he has yet to learn how to limit his bad play. There is no pleasure in saying of such a pleasant young man: I told you so.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

JOHANNESBURG: World Cup (Afr: Africa; Ame: Americas; Oce: Oceania; As: Asia; Eur: Europe; Russ: Russia; US: United States; GB: Great Britain) Men: 100m: 1, O Thompson (Ame) 9.87sec; 2, S Ogunkoya (Afr) 9.92; 3, D Chambers (GB) 10.03. 800m: 1, N Schumann (Ger) 1min 48.66sec; 2, M Everett (US) 1:48.73; 3, N Tellez (Ame) 1:48.92. British: 6, A Hart 1:50.07. 400m hurdles: 1, S Mateto (Afr) 48.09sec; 2, M Al-Nubi (As) 48.17; 3, D Morgan (Ame) 48.40. British: 7, A Borsumato 49.86. Shot: 1, J Godina (US) 21.48m; 2, A Bagach (Eur) 20.45; 3, O-S Buder (Ger) 20.42. British: 5, M Proctor (GB) 19.66. Women: 200m: 1, M Jones (US) 21.62sec; 2, F Ogunkoya (Afr) 22.25; 3, Z Pintusevich (Eur) 22.36. 1,500m: 1, S Masterkova (Russ) 4min 09.41sec; 2, J Marangu (Afr) 4:10.30; 3, C Sacramento (Eur) 4:11.66. 400m hurdles: 1, N Bidouane (Afr) 52.96; 2, D Hemmings (Ame) 53.03; 3, K Batten (US) 53.17. High jump: 1, M Iagar-Dinescu (Eur) 1.98m; 2, H Storbeck (Afr) 1.96; 3, T Waller (US) 1.93. Javelin: 1, J Stone (Oce) 69.85m; 2, S Bisset (Ame) 65.50; 3, M Ingberg (Eur) 64.24. Triple jump: 1, O Vasdeki (Eur) 14.64m; 2, T Lebedeva (Russ) 14.36; 3, Y Aldama (Ame) 14.29.

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Colorado 3 Florida 1; Los Angeles 4 San Diego 3; St Louis 8 Cincinnati 7; Atlanta 7 Montreal 4; New York Mets 7 Philadelphia 5; Chicago Cubs 5 Pittsburgh 2; Houston 7 Milwaukee 1.

BOWLS

WORTHING: Open tournament: Singles: Quarter-finals: C Hayward bt J Fishlock 21-11, M Leyshon bt K Wood 21-18, S Robertson bt G Robinson 21-11, M Overington bt I Tunks 21-10. Triples (skips only). Quarter-finals: M Overington bt E Atkins 23-4, A Victor bt C Hayward 22-11, C Scott bt G Robinson 14-11, R Lamdin bt L Prince 20-16.

CRICKET

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Second day of three: Southampton: Hampshire 264 and 170-1 dec; Lancashire 103-1 dec and 81-9 (all out). Hampshire won by 250 runs. Derby: Northamptonshire 123 and 389-5 dec; Derbyshire 151 and 272 (J W Cook 110, G M Roberts 67). Northamptonshire won by 88 runs. Edgbaston: Yorkshire 300-7 dec (A McGrath 92, R A Stead 86 not out, L C Weekes 61) and second innings forfeited; Warwickshire first innings forfeited and 241-7 (T Frost 71). Match drawn. Second day of four: Hove: Sussex 231 (I Mohammed 67; S J Rendall 4-25); Nottinghamshire 29-2.

CYCLING

TOUR OF SPAIN: Seventh stage (185km, Alicante to Valencia): 1, G Lombardi (Italy, Telekom) 4hr 3min 49sec; 2, J Bijleveld (Holl, TVM); 3, M Wust (Ger, Lotus); 4, L Aus (Est, Casino); 5, A Edo (Sp, Kelme); 6, S Commesso (It, Saeco); 7, F Guidi (It, Polti); 8, L van Bon (Holl, Rabobank); 9, E Anguita (Sp, Estepona); 10, S Smetanino (Russ, Vitalicio Seguros) all at same time. Overall positions: 1, J M Jiminez (Sp, Banesto) 33hr 28min 23sec; 2, R Horas (Sp, Kelme) at 31sec; 3, L Jalabert (Fr, ONCE) 34; 4, A Olano (Sp, Banesto) 58; 5, M Beltran (Sp, Banesto) 59; 6, O Frigo (It, Saeco) all at same time.

EQUESTRIANISM

BLENHEIM: Horse and Hound international horse trials (after dressage): 1, Rainbow Magic (P Funnell, GB) 39.4; 2, Sir Nicholas (G Molander, US) 43.6; equal 3, Rimini Park Favon (E Stibbe, Holl) and Cameo (A Lufkin, US) 44.0; 5, Regal Scot (M Todd, NZ) 45.0; 6, King Leo (A Nicholson, NZ) 47.8; 7, Dalliance (L Fredericks, GB) 47.8; 8, Makabi (T Loudon, US) 48.6; 9, Man of Stars (B Davidson, US) 48.8; 10, The Gangster II (K Gifford, GB) 49.2.

DWAREGEM, Belgium: Young Riders European championships (after dressage): 1, Germany 156.2; 2, France 158.6; 3, Belgium 175.4; 4, Great Britain 182.2.

GOLF

FOREST OF ARDEN: Warwickshire: British Masters: Leaders after two rounds (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 138: C Suneson (Sp) 69, 69; D Clarke 67, 71. 139: J Sandelin (Swe) 70, 69; E Romero (Arg) 70, 69. 140: M Campbell (NZ) 71, 69; A Kankkonen (Fin) 71, 69. 141: P Quirici (Switz) 68, 73; I Woosnam 73, 66; S Torrance 69, 72; M Roe 72, 69; G Owen 70, 71. 142: T Immelman (SA) 71, 71; A Beal 71, 71; R Wessels (SA) 72, 70; A Cabrera (Arg) 73, 69; A Coltart 72, 70; C Montgomerie 70, 72; G Hutcheon 72, 70; O Karlsson (Swe) 75, 67; O Bonego (Sp) 72, 70.

WARSAW OPEN: Leaders after two rounds (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 135: R Sjoberg (Swe) 67, 68; J Comles (Sp) 69, 66. 136: R Salter (Austria) 70, 66; R Bland 68, 68; S Scahill (NZ) 67, 69. 137: E Little 67, 70; S Wakefield 69, 68; S Andrew 69, 68; G Shorty 68, 69; B Teilleria (Fr) 69, 68. 139: M Persson (Swe) 73, 66; E Giraud (Fr) 68, 71; J M Lara (Sp) 69, 70. 140: J Robinson 72, 68; B Petit (Fr) 68, 72; M Blackey 70, 70; A Binaghi (It) 70, 70. 141: E Andersson (Swe) 74, 67; E Carlberg (Swe) 70, 71; O A Russell 70, 71; C Hanell (Swe) 68, 73; S Dowston 70, 71; M Rantanen (Fin) 70, 71; S Hansen (Den) 73, 68; C Cevaer (Fr) 70, 71; J Mellor 70, 71. 142: S Watson 71, 71; G Emerson 72, 70; M Pendaries (Fr) 70, 72; M Miller 71, 71.

OAKVILLE, Ontario: Canadian Open: Leading first round scores (United States unless stated): 66: C Smith. 68: B Andrade, O Hart, M Small, T Herron, S Verplank, K Gibson. 69: J Sluman, O Edwards, P Tataurangi (NZ), R Friend, F Zoeller, P Blackmar. 70: E Els (SA), T Armour III, T Purtzer, G Hnatiuk (Can), L Mattice, B Henninger, B Gilder, R Coughlan, G Hill. 71: K Sutherland, R Damron, K Fergus, L Rinker, T Fanning, J Daley, J Sindelar, O B Stephen Ames, P H Horgan III, J Furyk, H Sutton, C Barlow.

WASHINGTON: Safeco Classic: Leading first round scores (United States unless stated). 65: S Steinhauer. 66: P Hammel. 67: Se Ri Pak (S Kor). 68: A Sorenstam (Swe), P Hurst. 69: P Sinn, M McGann, C Johnson, J Geddes, L Davies (GB), O Dormann, J Crafter (Aus), W Doolan. Other scores: 71: C Matthew (GB). 72: D Reid (GB), K Marshall (GB), H Dobson (GB). 75: A Nicholas (GB). 76: S Lowe (GB). 77: J Moodie (GB), J Morley (GB), L Hackney (GB).

ROYAL PORTHCAWL: Men's Amateur Home Internationals: Wales 11½ Scotland 3½ (Foursomes, Wales names first: N Edwards and J Donaldson bt O Fox and L Kelly 3 and 1; M Pilkington and A Smith bt G Rankin and E Forbes 1 hole, K Sullivan and O Pugho bt S Carmichael and P McKechnie 2 and 1; L Harpin and S Roberts lost to M Thomson and S Horne 4 and 3, C Williams and I Campbell halved with S McKenzie and O Patrick. Singles: Pilkington bt Rankin 5 and 3, Donaldson bt Kelly 1 hole; N Edwards bt C Watson 1 hole; Sullivan bt Forbes 2 and 1; Harpin bt Carmichael 2 and 1, Roberts bt McKechnie 3 and 2, Smith bt Thompson 4 and 2; Pughe lost to Patrick 5 and 4; M Palmer lost to McKenzie 2 and 1, Williams bt O Fox 1 hole. England 8 Ireland 7 (Foursomes, England names first: G Wolstenholme and M Sanders bt K Kearney and G McGimpsey 3 and 2, L Donald and P Rowe lost to E Power and J Morris 1 hole; S Dyson and M Harris lost to A McCormick and O Jones 5 and 4; K Ferrie and B Mason halved with N Fox and P Gribben; C Edwards and S McCarthy lost to E Brady and J Foster 2 and 1. Singles: Donald bt Power 5 and 4; Dyson halved with Gribben; Wolstenholme bt McGimpsey 3 and 1; K Ferrie lost to N Fox 3 and 1; Sanders bt Kearney 4 and 3; Harris bt Brady 4 and 3; McCarthy lost to McCormick 2 and 1; C Edwards lost to Cullen 3 and 2; Mason bt Morris 2 and 1, Rowe bt Jones 1 hole). Final placings: 1, England; 2, Ireland; 3, Wales; 4, Scotland.

BURNHAM AND BERROW: Women's home internationals: England 6 Scotland 3 (Foursomes, Scotland names first: A Laing and L Moffat lost to K Rostron and F Brown 4 and 3, V Laing and E Farquharson-Black bt R Hudson and L Walters 5 and 4, A Rose and H Monaghan halved with K Smith and J Lamb. Singles: Rose bt Rostron 1 hole; A Laing bt Smith 7 and 6; Monaghan lost to Walters 2 and 1; V Laing halved with Lamb, L Nicholson lost to K Fisher 1 hole, Farquharson-Black lost to Hudson 5 and 3). Wales 3 Ireland 6 (Foursomes, Wales names first: L Davis and V Thomas lost to L Behan and E Dowdall 4 and 2; R Morgan and N Evans lost to A Coffey and M McGreevy 1 hole, C Cole and R Brewerton lost to H Kavanagh and S O'Brien 5 and 3. Singles: Davis lost to Behan 5 and 4; Evans lost to Coffey 3 and 2, Cole bt Dowdall 1 hole; Morgan bt O Purfield 4 and 3; Brewerton lost to T Mangan 2 holes; H Lawson bt O'Brien 4 and 3). Final placings: 1, England; 2, Ireland; 3, Scotland; 4, Wales.

TENNIS

NEW YORK: US Open: Men: Singles: Quarter-finals: C Moyà (Sp) bt M Larsson (Swe) 6-4, 6-3, 6-3; M Philippoussis (Aus) bt T Johansson (Swe) 4-6, 6-3, 6-7, 6-3, 7-6. Doubles: Semi-finals: M Knowles (Bah) and D Nestor (Can) bt J De Jager (SA) and R Koenig (SA) 7-6, 6-2. Women: Doubles: Semi-finals: M Hingis (Switz) and J Novotna (Cz) bt L Raymond (US) and R Stubbs (Aus) 6-2, 6-2; L Davenport (US) and N Zvereva (Bela) bt V R Pascual (Sp) and P Suarez (Arg) 6-2, 6-4. Mixed Doubles: Final: S Williams (US) and M Mirnyi (Bela) bt L Raymond and P Galbraith (US) 6-2, 6-2.

هكذا من الأصل

TENNIS: AUSTRALIAN DISPLAYS GROWING MENTAL STRENGTH TO PREVAIL OVER JOHANSSON IN FIFTH-SET TIE-BREAK

Philippoussis minds his own business

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK

ALWAYS beware of the man with momentum. At present, that man is Mark Philippoussis, who followed his defeat of Tim Henman by outgunning Thomas Johansson, of Sweden, in an enthralling final-set tie-break late on Thursday night. The Australian thus advanced to his first semi-final of a grand slam event here at the US Open.

Irrespective of his fate hereafter, this tournament could be the making of Philippoussis, a 6ft 4in giant who strikes the ball harder than anyone on the circuit. His problem has been his mental immaturity, but his 12-10 verdict in that decisive tie-break offered a lesson in self-belief. Mind you, Philippoussis, 21, is adept at winning marathon de-breaks; he emerged victorious from a spellbinding match-clincher with Greg Rusedski in the semi-finals at Queen's last year.

The stakes were a lot higher this time. "That match has definitely matured me a lot," Philippoussis said after a 3hr 26min stint on court. "When it has been tough in the past, I haven't come back strong. I just didn't want to take the challenge. This is definitely a step in my life that is going to change me as a person."

Philippoussis, ranked No 22 in the world, saved three match points after recovering from a two-sets-to-one deficit. Johansson had one serve for the match in that tie-break, but, crucially, missed his first delivery. He will also rue the way he let slip a 4-2 lead in the fifth set by double-faulting to drop serve for 4-3.

"I'd rather lose 6-2, 6-2, 6-2 than like this," Johansson said. "This is almost the worst thing that can happen." What actually punctured him beyond repair was the way Philippoussis saved the third match point against him with a thunderous ace, his thirtieth of the match. There could be no faulting his nerve.

The feeling in advance of Philippoussis's fourth-round clash with Henman was that it could have a huge influence over both players. They knew that the draw had opened up ahead of them. A realistic path to the final awaited the victor. Such opportunities are rare, but they can transform a player's career from dangerous floater to genuine contender. Philippoussis snatched the spoils from Henman and is now on his way, this epic defeat of Johansson, who is ranked No 33, further fuelling his belief.

"I just wanted to show some guts out there," Philippoussis said afterwards. "I didn't want to let go: I wanted to show that I am a fighter." The comments of the man who knows him best — his father, Nick — were particularly pertinent. "You turned into a man tonight," he told his son.

Philippoussis may now be ready to embrace the disciplined life of a professional sportsman. So low did he sink in June that he talked openly of quitting indefinitely. He generated precious little sympathy, even in his sorry state.

Philippoussis had alienated many among the travelling Australian contingent — among them John Newcombe and Tony Roche, who run their country's Davis Cup team — and Pat Rafter, whose example in dedication and commitment Philippoussis distinctly failed to follow. More indicative of his intentions was the sight of his bright yellow Ferrari parked outside Melbourne's many nightspots.

Philippoussis paid scant attention to his dietary requirements, gorging himself on pizzas, and trained intermittently. He thought he could simply flick the switch on match days, as he did when his Leviathan physique allowed him bully his way to top honours as a junior. It made an inadequate preparation for the senior circuit.

Much of Philippoussis's transformation is down to Pat Cash, the former Wimbledon champion, who took charge of his raw compatriot after the player's dismal exit at Queen's Club three months ago. Cash coaxed a good Wimbledon run from his new pupil, Philippoussis losing narrowly to Pete Sampras, who prevailed 7-6, 6-4, 6-4 in the quarter-finals. It was the first time that Philippoussis had reached that stage in a grand-slam tournament — and he bettered it here on his very next attempt.

One title already settled here is the mixed doubles, in which Max Mirnyi and Serena Williams repeated their Wimbledon triumph, this time against Patrick Galbraith and Lisa Raymond. With Serena's sister, Venus, having won the Australian and French titles in tandem with Justin Gimelstob, the sisters thus completed a "family" grand slam at mixed doubles. Remakably, Mirnyi, from Belarus, has never yet qualified for the singles draw in any grand-slam event.

STAN HONDA

Philippoussis, the conqueror of Henman, celebrates his epic five-set quarter-final victory over Johansson at Flushing Meadows

Rafter in shape to stretch Sampras

FROM ALIX RAMSAY

TO WIN a championship is one thing, to defend the title is a different matter entirely. Every champion will tell you the same. To defend that title here in the bear-pit of Flushing Meadows, in front of a crowd that demands drama, blood and pain for its ticket money, is enough to cause a flutter of panic in even the most battle-hardened of competitors. Yet, for the first time in a year, Pat Rafter seems to be at ease with his position as US Open champion.

It may have taken Rafter 12 months to recapture his best form, but now that he has, he looks like a man on the most simple of missions. Rafter, it seems, has realised there was no point in trying to recreate or live up to the past. It began to dawn on him at Wimbledon and since then he has forced his way up the rankings and back into contention. Since his first-round fright against Hicham Arazi, he has brushed aside all challengers.

Today, he takes on Pete Sampras, a man who should know more than most about the pressures of success. It appeared easy to live with at first, but lately Sampras has shown signs of weakness. Sampras, too, found comfort at Wimbledon. With his ranking and his reputation resting on grand-slam victories, taking his fifth title at the All-England Club gave him the kickstart that he needed to pull himself out of the mental slump.

The two men have met ten times, with Sampras winning all but two of their encounters, although, perhaps significantly, Rafter won the last time they met last month. After waltzing away with the first set, Sampras eventually lost on a disputed line call and exploded in fury. Rafter thinks he may have got to Sampras as a result.

"He's a bit upset," Rafter said. "I thought the ball was in, and he knows I thought that." "He's smoking something that isn't legal," Sampras replied, before adding: "I don't think he got under my skin, I think the situation did." One flash of emotion is more than enough for one summer and Sampras is trying to play down any hint of a grudge between them.

If the match lives up to its billing, it should be the best of the tournament so far. Sampras has been getting stronger as the tournament has gone on, as is his custom, pacing himself for the assault on the final. He knows that Rafter is the player in form, having won 23 matches for the loss of two since he arrived in Los Angeles at the end of July.

"He's a great mover, a great athlete and one of the best volleyers we have in the game," Sampras said of his rival. "If I can return well and make him volley, then hopefully I can wear him down over the course of a four or a five-set match."

That is more or less the philosophy of Mark Philippoussis, who takes on Carlos Moyà in the other semi-final. After beating Thomas Johansson in five sets on Thursday night, Philippoussis is brimming with confidence. Now, against Moyà, he just hopes he can do it again. "He's going to run all day and not miss a thing. I've got to be ready to play an even tougher match than I did in my quarter-final."

EQUESTRIANISM

Funnell steams into lead

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

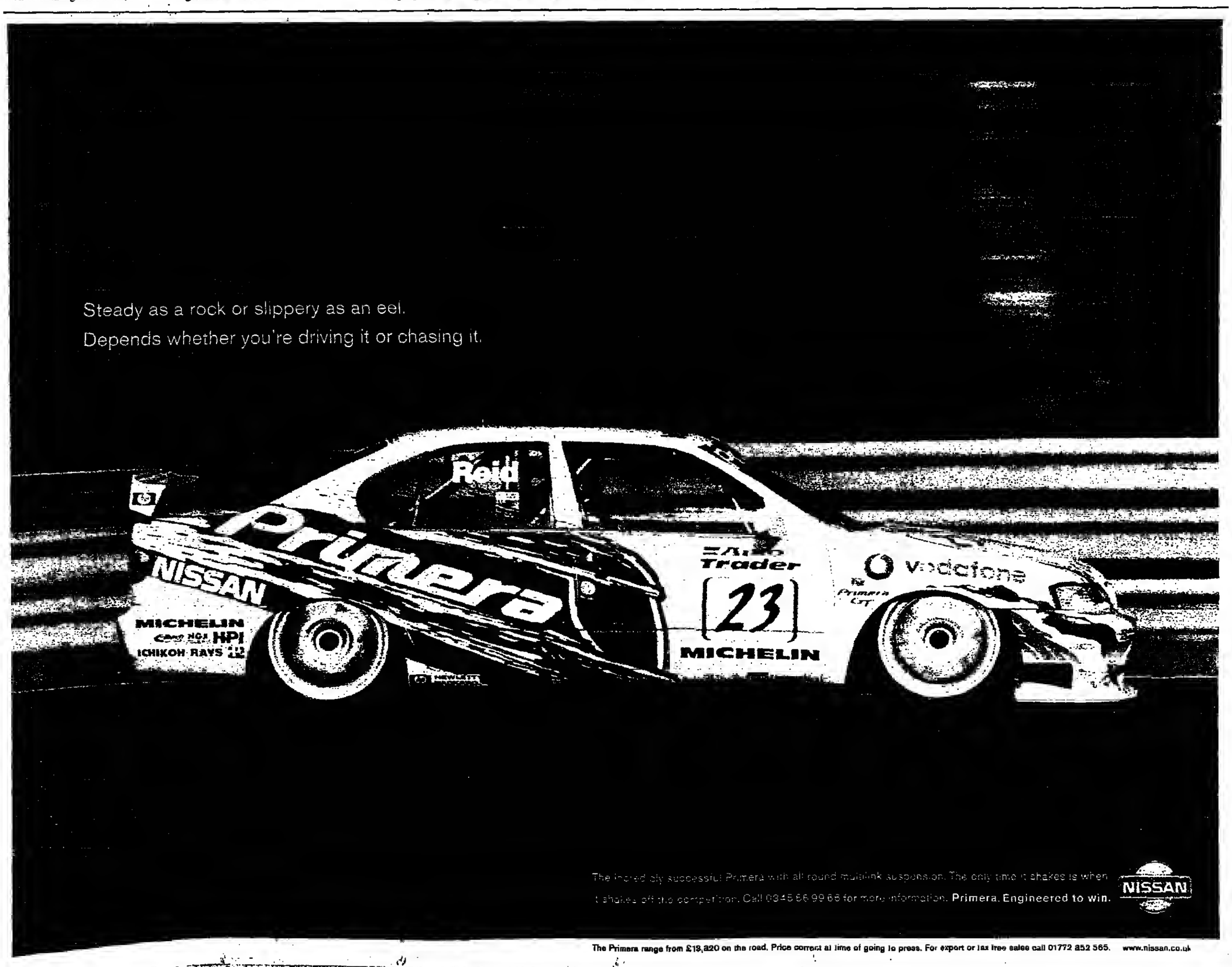
PIPPA FUNNELL hailed the charge by foreign riders at the Blenheim Horse and Hound International Horse Trials with an outstanding dressage test on Rainbow Magic yesterday, which gave her a 4.2-point lead over Gayle Molander, of the United States, on Sir Nicholas, the overnight leader.

Abigail Lufkin, on Cameo, one of a daunting contingent of United States riders, moved into joint-third place with Eddy Stibbe, of Holland, on his new ride, Rimini Park Fabian. Mark Todd, on Regal Scot, and Andrew Nicholson, on King Leo, two of the pre-event favourites, are only a whisker behind the leaders in fifth and sixth places.

Rainbow Magic, a nine-year-old gelding owned by Denise Lincoln and Meller Consulting, looked a picture as he showed off his paces against the breathtaking background of Blenheim Palace. "He's a real joy to ride," Funnell said. "He finds it all so easy." Their score of 39.4 — which included nines for the medium trot and shoulder-in movements — was the only one to break the 40 barrier.

Unfortunately, Rainbow Magic does not find the cross-country so easy. Although he displayed a precocious talent when winning in Achselschwang, Germany, two years ago, he has made several mistakes since — most recently at Punchestown in May, where he stopped at the water. Despite a propensity to "jink out" at the last minute, Funnell's confidence in him is unshaken.

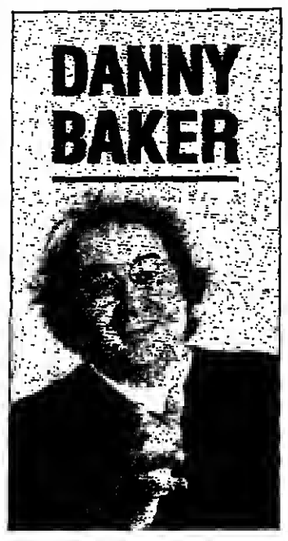
There is little margin for error today over the bold but inviting 30-fence cross-country course built by Mike Etherington-Smith, who will be in charge of the Olympic three-day-event course in Sydney. Molander has vowed to take all the quick routes. Todd, only 5.6 points behind Funnell on Regal Scot, his Bonn-Rodderberg winner, considers the former racehorse to be the best cross-country horse he has had.



FOOTBALL SATURDAY

That'll teach you for selling your soul in the first place

DANNY BAKER



Just what is the Manchester United supporters' problem? What kind of club did they think they were pouring their money into? To listen to some of them this week, you'd have thought United were a little local outfit who, despite massive money and success, had managed to remain on a first-name basis with every season ticket-holder and, in essence, were no different from Leyton Orient or Melchester Rovers — all sandwiches, tea ladies and rattles. What dopes.

Where did they think they were headed with their talk of super leagues, with their all-devouring transfer attitudes, with their MUTV, their executive boxes complete with volume control switches? It isn't for nothing that United have earned the British supporter's long-term contempt for being the monster machine that sucks up every glory-hunting dilettante from all parts of these islands.

This week, there they were — all kinds of regional accents crying squonk's tears on prime-time news and whining that the takeover of Old Trafford is sounding the death-knell for traditional British football. Too right matey. Traditional British football dying, eh? Maybe you should have thought of that before you abandoned Crewe or Gillingham or Notts County or whoever your rightful local team are in favour of some "big" club.

ALEX FERGUSON MUST GO NOW! THE ENTIRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHOULD RESIGN IMMEDIATELY! UNITED ARE THE SYMBOL OF EVERYTHING THAT IS WRONG IN FOOTBALL! UP THE CITY! Sorry about that outburst. It's not actually heartfelt at all. I've just been asked to find out where the edge of the cliff is these days.

Thought you made a difference, did you sucker? Listened to all those hard-luck stories about Doncaster and Brighton and Newport and Aldershot over the past decade and, while sympathising, congratulated yourself on making the modern business choice? For soccer to evolve, it might just be necessary for a few teams to go under, that's the line isn't it? I heard you all right.

Well, how's this for evolution, my old Red Devils? Not needed now, eh? At last, a club that doesn't need supporters. Just consumers — and those it has the globe over. Your season ticket-holders mean not an iota more than an old lady with enough piastas to buy a replica shirt in Sudan.

The only real problem I can foresee is for BSkyB itself. How on earth can it show its face at other grounds now? The cameras are no longer neutral. They are the Man United network and I really don't think the money men have considered what a bitter dividing point that will become.

They are now clearly United fans, spies even, secret soccer police with a vested interest. Imagine BSkyB having to cover Arsenal v Newcastle, penultimate game of the season. Arsenal need to win it to go one point above Man U. If they lose, the title goes to Old Trafford. How welcome will their cables, cameras, technicians and satellite trucks be at Highbury? Or any away ground where United are pitching up?

This week, it was perhaps not best for Rupert Murdoch and his team to salivate over the huge United fan base, but rather to ponder the far larger anti-United ticket. For football is not purely a business. Nobody who drinks Coca-Cola actively, aggressively, vocally, despises Pepsi. NatWest may be in competition with Barclays, but their brands do not have deep and heartfelt divisions among millions at grass-roots level. A Ford owner will not hope with all his might that Fiat meet with catastrophe overnight.

Yet these are the everyday feelings of football fans. BSkyB may just have made the same vain, misguided decision as a hundred thousand glory-seeking casual British soccer fans. They have chosen Manchester United.

Finney, left, performing as King Lear with Tom Cortenay in *The Dresser* and ensuring that the leading lights shine brightest

Look what's lurking in the shadows

In all the ballyhoo, some say hubbub, not to mention publicity over BSkyB this week, we are in great danger of overlooking the true victim in all of this, EuroSport. Like Quorn is "the other white meat", poor old Eurosport is most definitely "the other satellite sport channel".

Yet, bravely, it struggles on. There is a moment in Peter Yates's production of *The Dresser*, where Albert Finney, as "Sir" — a fabulous, overbearing actor/-manager of the old school — addresses his supporting company and booms: "The large light up in the balcony is exclusively for my own use. The rest of yoo must find what light you can."

It is in these shadows that Eurosport quietly carries on its work. On the day that the Man Utd/BSkyB agreement was signed, I tuned in to this over-looked outlet to see what might be happening in a sporting world still unbattered by the blizzard of modern mass media manoeuvring. I am rewarded with the Ms Physical Fitness USA finals from Redondo Beach, California.

At first, I feel this must be some recognised body-building fest and decide to watch for a few minutes so as to be suitably appalled at the bulging, manly, female physiques on view and thereby have something to thunder against at the water cooler on Thursday. However, the Ms Physical Fitness USA finals are rather less legitimate.

They turn out to be a sort of pumped up beauty pageant that seeks to honour those who have been most diligent on butt crunchers, thigh masters and other store-bought aerobics paraphenalia throughout the year. Quite simply, they were the Game Show Hostess Olympics and were so fantastic that I forgot to turn back to *Seinfeld*.

Each of the contestants was required to step up to the mike in evening wear and deliver "a philosophy of fitness". I assure you, they were the kind of inane homilies that made the declarations at Ms Universe 1998 sound like the opening speech from Patton. As a crane camera restlessly swooped the enormous stage like a jackdaw making a pass at Tony Blackburn's hairpiece, poised but terrified women spoke about "the success of self", "inner temples", "personal aesthetic attainment" and "harnessing the magic that is me and you". I awaited the audience cutaway of Glenn and Eileen holding hands and mouthing: "Yes! Oh yes!"

FACT: Yet another great soccer/TV tie-in! BBC Teletext is running a competition to win tickets for the Middlesborough v Everton game. There's one in the eye for Camelot plc, eh?

Then came the physical portion of the proceedings and the tenuous sporting claim the show was boasting disappeared altogether. Each woman performed a dance. Now, when I say dance, I don't mean the kind of artistic gymnastic ribbons and hoops display that nine-year-olds perform at the indoor athletics meetings — though Lord knows that's peculiar enough — I mean a real shape-throwing, non-stop, shoe-swinging freak-out. Like Sue Pollard would ad-lib if *Hi de Hi*'s script called for her to get drunk and show herself up.

The only set move in any of these bastard descendants of the Charleston was to see which of the entrants might most constantly find the camera with the straining gusset of their drawers. Because, make no mistake, these were not leotards, bigs or cycle shorts on display. These were boob tubes, mini-skirts and drawers, sir.

After watching the first dozen or so hopefuls, I got the distinct feeling that I ought to be feeding pound coins into a slot (those who understand that reference might explain it to their partners).

During the World Cup, I praised Sky Sports for countering the omnipresent pictures from France with events such as the world jiving championships from Cardiff. Now that Sky owns Manchester United, I suppose it will install live webcams in all the players' homes and orifices and such images will edge out those fringe sporting competitions that so complete a network's spectrum.

It is therefore comforting to know that they will always have a home just a little along the dial and that one station at least refuses to be devoured by the monster of modern football.

Punting with the best of them

Millwall FC is in productive talks with Punt Media Industries, the conglomerate owned by Highland mogul Florian Punt, publisher of the *Isle of Arran Shoemaker's Monthly*.

Details of any prospective deal are shrouded in secrecy, but eyebrows were raised recently when Mr Punt was seen "laughing and joking" with Millwall youth team coach David Cross in The Five Bells, New Cross, before the South East Coundes game against Southend United. Also, a photographer from *The Hoy & District Freesheet* has been given a good spot "down by the post" at all recent Lions home games. This despite the catchment area of the newspaper being restricted to the suburbs of Wick, Caithness.

A spokesperson for Punt Media did not deny the deal and added: "It is no secret that Mr Punt has been interested in having closer ties with a football club for some time and, naturally, the profile of Millwall FC complements many of our own interests. While strapped at the moment, Punt Media can confidently tell Millwall to get their arm nice and swabbed in preparation for a future cash injection."

Danny Baker, president of the Phony Baloney Unification Soccer Support Alliance for Real Old Fashioned Fans, was rather less enthusiastic. "It's a disgrace," he wrote today in his *Times* column. "On Tuesday, our ground was literally uprooted with heavy machines and placed on the back of an enormous lorry, which then drove off towards Scotland. It's like they're taking the club away from us." Tommy Docherty is 106.

Hats off to Bradford, the pride of a nation

United are off to BSkyB, Arsenal are making eyes at Carlton and Ken Bates must be toying with the idea of putting a red light in the window and raising his hemline. Yet it's not all whizzbangs, sensations and bonfire of the vanities out there. Here are three other copper-bottomed news items pulling at our collective mental coat during this rumbustious week.

1. Gareth Collinson, of Grantham Town, has joined Birmingham City on trial with a view to a permanent move.

2. Bradford City will play Vardar Skopje in Macedonia on October 13 as part of that country's British Week festivities.

3. Paul Stewart, the former England, Tottenham Hotspur and Liverpool striker, is in the Workington Town line-up today.

While I admit that I completely made up the story about players falling off a roof in Zagreb last week, the item about Bradford being the best we can spare for Macedonia's British Week is absolutely... true. I'll bet it's a full house too.

My friend Danny Kelly once accepted, on behalf of his pub side, an offer to play what he presumed were their counterparts in Majorca. When an air-conditioned coach turned up at their two-star hotel in Palma, Danny began to suspect his hosts may have over-estimated his squad's status. He and his collection of rail workers, students, postmen and cab drivers were then delivered to a floodlit stadium where 5,000 people had filled every seat.

In the modern and well-equipped dressing-room, many from the Royal George XI began to wish they had synchronised their shorts and socks before leaving East London and, for the first time, became acutely aware of the washed-out, threadbare nature of their shirts. It was when Danny went forward for the toss-up and was handed a commemorative pennant by the opposing captain — Kelly having nothing to offer in return but the firmest of handshakes — that he finally accepted that this was not going to be the beach-front kick-about he had prepared for.

His side were beaten 19-2 by the uniformly dressed, super-fit and clearly professional opposition, Royal George being subjected to catcalls throughout and booed to the echo at the final whistle. Now, then. Whenever Danny K tells this story, it is always a matter of supreme frustration that he is forced to reveal that he has no idea who, exactly, the host side were and who the hell they thought the Royal George were. He thinks the Spaniards actually were Palma FC and his team are convinced they were mistaken for West Ham United.

So, hats off to Bradford and their part in the export drive, but, at the same time, it is entirely likely that several thousand Macedonians are under the impression that it is Glenn Hoddle's squad who are in intensive training, gearing up for the feast of football soon to be staged in their Motherland.

Muir the merrier for stormy 30-year affair

Mark Hodkinson meets a former director who spent half a lifetime with the blue half of Manchester

BLUE MOON

A family portrait. Of sorts. The camera homes in. Faces are picked out from the grainy monochrome. Middle row, centre: middle-aged man, suit, glasses, benign expression. Front row, far right: stocky, fair-haired sportsman, steely, "up-for-it" look. At this point, the film director splatters blood over the picture and we recognise the code: family at war, along this way will pass hostility and cruelty.

The photograph, a team shot of Manchester City taken in 1969, hangs in the home of Chris Muir. Muir, now aged 69, is in the photograph. He is the man in glasses and the fair-haired man is Francis Lee. "Do you know what is unusual about this photograph?" he asks. He embarks upon a story about the silverware placed conspicuously in the foreground. He is, of course, missing the point.

What *is* really un*usual* is that it depicts a football club with the capacity to make the rise and fall of the Roman Empire seem like a toga party that turned nasty.

Muir was a director of Manchester City for nearly 30 years. He has a silver salver to commemorate the fact. A war medal might have been more apt. "I can tell you a few stories," he begins. And he can. A theme will soon fall into place — of manipulation, betrayal, egoism, vanity, rashness, bloody-mindedness. "All this stuff that's happening at United, it's been part of football for years. It's just that the stakes have got higher and the media profile so much greater." Indeed, in the week when United are valued at £623 million, City has an overdraft of £10 million.

United. Always United. For Muir, and indeed City, they were there in the beginning, there at the end. "When I first came to Manchester from Scotland, everyone told me United were the greatest football club in the world. I was a rebel looking for a cause. I found it at City."

Born in Leith, his work in the stationery business brought him to Manchester and, in the early Sixties, he was seduced by the sullied charm of City as they withered beneath the bloom of United. He formed a pressure group designed to oust the old guard at the helm.

"They were very old-fashioned, a group of freemasons who had fallen behind the times," he says. At the time, City's share issue ran to 2,000 and Muir began buying them. Most were kept as quasi souvenirs by fans, tucked away in cupboards and shoeboxes. "I have a nice smile and a pleasant Scottish accent. They thought if I was mad enough to buy them, I must have the club's interest at heart."

He became an *agent provocateur*, goading supporters to campaign against the board. In his own terms, he was a "swordsman of the revolution" and, such was his drive, sentiment did not impede his progress. He probably knew, even then, that one day he, too, would be put to the sword.

In 1967, he duly became a director. Joe Mercer and Malcolm Allison were two years into their managerial reign and the club was entering a successful era.

"If ever two people needed each other, it was those two. Malcolm was the man of a thousand ideas, many of them born from fantasy, but some were sheer genius. Joe had the ability to pick out the gems," he says.

Muir was the Mr Fix-It. He fixed it for the club lottery to make notable profits and he oversaw the youth policy. The brief also ran to the unusual: remonstrating with a player who thought it was a good idea to urinate over the side of the open-top bus as they paraded the League Cup; explaining to office staff why a member of the coaching team required numerous guest tickets for young, attractive females.

He will put a name to a story, but he would rather it did not appear in print. He is discreet; a wheeler-dealer of the old school. He says there were, in and around the club, "phenomenal womanisers, bloody lunatics, all manner of life".

In the early Seventies, another power struggle saw Muir briefly lose his position. He formed an alliance with Peter Swales, then the chairman of non-league Altrincham. The public image of Swales was later cruelly lampooned — small man, crimson complexion, hair intricately weaved to conceal an obvious baldness. Muir saw him as "a man who could lead City to greatness".

Muir admired the tact, the sleight of hand, the charm and the cunning of Swales. He was a master of well-placed gossip, a schemer, always out for the best deal. Whether this was for City or himself, well — "that was a matter of opinion. He had the blue blood of City in his veins," Muir avers.

Swales became chairman in 1973 and he reappointed Allison during the close season of 1979. He wanted the magic of old, but the "Hold on, pal" pragmatism of Joe Mercer was missing and Allison's ego, along with City's spending — most of it ridiculously speculative — ran riot.

"Swales was trying to keep up with Manchester United. Whenever Allison wanted a player, Swales found the money." Although City enjoyed qualified success, they began to trail United by some distance and Swales, as the club's figurehead, was blamed.

Lee led a consortium determined to seize power. "He appeared at Maine Road and was seen as the knight in shining armour," Muir says. The ensuing battle was fierce and dirty. "Oh Christ, it was savage," Muir recalls. "They were throwing things at Swales's house, shouting abuse at his 80-year-old mother. I think it had a serious effect on his health."

After six months of acrimony, Lee replaced Swales as chairman and Muir was asked to resign. "I was completely shattered and heartbroken."

Beneath that infamous photograph, he looks across at the silver salver. It seems rather small and insignificant. "No, at least it's some kind of recognition. It's a memento of a large part of my life, half of my life."

Beneath the glasses, there is still a twinkle in his dark eyes. It might have been a bloody and breathless life in football, but it was — make no mistake — also fun, a life lived to the brim.

Sir Matt Busby was a rival, but remained a close friend

Muir has a huge fund of stories about life at Maine Road

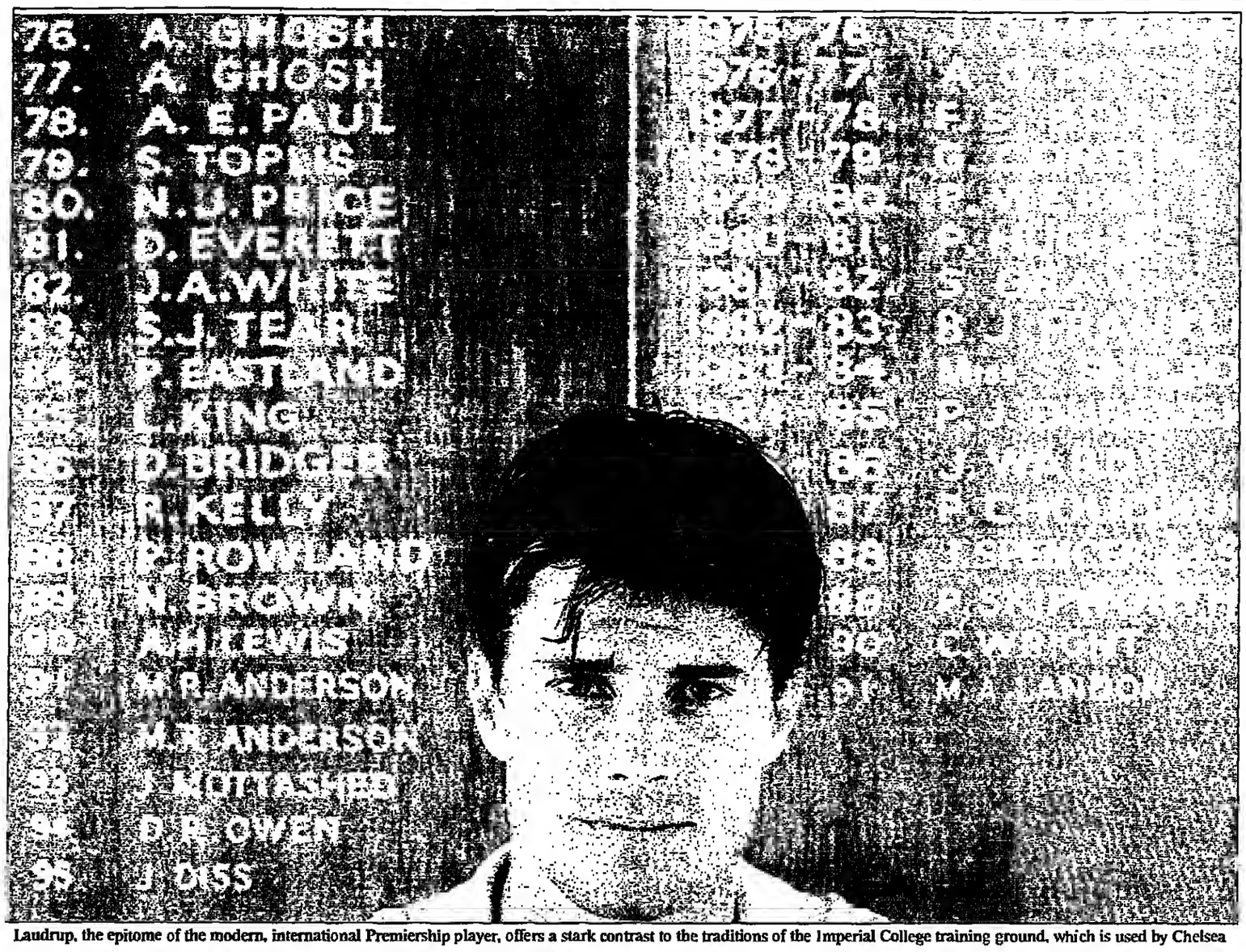
هكذا من الأصل

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Rare artist leaves brother's shadow far behind

Rangers gave Brian Laudrup his freedom and the World Cup confirmed his fame.

Photograph: **Marc Aspland**



Laudrup, the epitome of the modern, international Premiership player, offers a stark contrast to the traditions of the Imperial College training ground, which is used by Chelsea

OLIVER HOLT

I remember it best in the smell of the smoke that wafted through the section of the Cheadle End at Edgeley Park, where I sat with my father. It came when the man in the camelhair coat in the row in front lit up his cigar. I remember it in the glorious feeling of being part of a mass of humanity surging back and forth on the Stretford End and the Kippax. Its name was escapism.

Now that the terraces are gone and Stockport County, no longer bottom of the fourth division, have replaced the Cheadle End with something altogether more grand, the triggers are more overt. Watching Ryan Giggs slipping a tackle and taking flight is a fine way to lose yourself in the beauty of football. Michael Owen skipping past challenge after challenge at St James' Park is as good a metaphor for freedom as you can get.

The pursuit of escape, one of the most dominant themes running through football, has become harder and harder as the years have progressed. For the player, improved levels of fitness have made it easier for journeymen to master artists. For supporters, price rises, seats and the invasion of the corporate sector has robbed stadium after stadium of the atmosphere of old.

Yet this afternoon at Stamford Bridge, one of the masters of escapism will take the pitch for Chelsea against Nottingham Forest. A hamstring injury forced everybody to wait until last Wednesday to see Brian Laudrup, but now that he appears to be healed, England will witness a man who has had to dedicate his whole life to a process of wriggling free.

Against Arsenal on Wednesday night, he was far from his best, feeling his way gingerly into a new experience. There were some who shook their heads in premature condemnation and repeated the suggestion that Laudrup does not fancy it when the going get rough. Just give him a chance, for he is one of those rare players who can bring a little fantasy back into football.

"How do you stop him?" Andy Goram, his Rangers teammate, was asked last season after Laudrup, playing in the free role that Walter Smith granted him, had destroyed the opposition with a typical display of many running and almost impossibly sure close control. "First, you need a piece of rope," Goram said. "That always comes in handy for tying him down."

Laudrup has been learning how to escape since he was a child. He was groomed to be elusive. Because he was the younger brother of Michael Laudrup, the man considered to be the greatest player Denmark has produced, even primary school coaches were waiting to try to shackle Brian. Man-to-man marking was hardly a novelty for him when he started playing in Italy's Serie A. As "Michael's brother", he had had to deal with that for a while. Since the age of eight, in fact.

You would hardly know it from his demeanour. He exudes serenity and quiet contentedness. He speaks softly and gently and sometimes it sounds as if there is a Scottish lilt to his perfect English, a product of his five years with Rangers. But when Laudrup has not led others in the pursuit of shadows, he has been fighting to emerge from the one cast by his brother.

"My father was a professional footballer as well," Laudrup said. "He won 20 caps for Denmark and, at his time, he was regarded as one of the best players Denmark had seen. My brother came forward and he is regarded as the best player Denmark have ever produced, no doubt about that at all. As the third one coming along in a very small country, people used to watch me playing when I was only seven or eight and say: 'He is going to be as good.'

"At times, it was very difficult because you couldn't just play as a normal child. You always had to try to live up to being Michael's brother and they always man-marked me just because of my name, even when I was seven or eight and just playing in school games. Imagine that for a kid.

"I remember when I was about 13, I really lost any joy in playing. I came home from one game crying and I said to my mum: 'That's it. I can't really see myself going all the way. I can't stand it. I just want to be someone normal. I want to be called Brian Jensen or Brian Neilsen. I am going to quit.'"

However, his own love for the game and his belief in his talent made him reconsider. Eventually, when he and Peter Schmeichel led Denmark to a surprise victory in the 1992 European championship, despite the absence of Michael, who had not been included in the squad because of a dispute with the national coach, the younger Laudrup emerged blinking from the shadows.

"Since that day, I have never had a problem," Laudrup said. "Until then, I had always been 'Michael's brother'. Suddenly, Michael became 'Brian's brother' and I became a person in myself. I felt I had finally achieved something that Michael hadn't achieved."

Before he arrived in Glasgow four summers ago to lead Paul Gascoigne and the rest of the team in the chase to equal the record of nine successive league championships, Laudrup had led a peripatetic club existence, wandering from a series of unsatisfactory stints at Bayern Munich, AC Milan and Fiorentina. At Bayern, he said the atmosphere was so stifling and the work ethic so unbending that he would be chastised if he even laughed during training. At AC Milan, he was stifled by the surfeit of playing riches at the club before it went into decline. It was only at Rangers, where he was allowed to play where he wanted, that he found the freedom to express himself and his talent blossomed.

His international career reached its zenith in the summer when he and Michael bowed out of the Denmark team at the top. Michael scored in the narrow quarter-final defeat against Brazil and both were named in the team of the tournament named by Fifa, the world governing body.

Brian had decided already he would not be playing when the 2002 World Cup came around, so he announced his retirement from international football. "I had always said to myself that if I could finish in the national team at the very highest level, which means in the World Cup and playing against Brazil in the quarter-finals and scoring," Laudrup said, "then that will always be in here, in my soul. But I was not prepared for what actually happened in Denmark when I said I would retire, because they went absolutely berserk.

"It was just like the future king saying he didn't want to be king. It was really at that level. People were saying I was turning my back on my country, that I had a duty to play on. I just felt I had played in two European championships and won the European championship in 1992 and I had played in the World Cup.

"I have also come almost as far as my brother now and that is fine with me. I never had the ambition to become the best of us. As long as you enjoy your football and entertain people, that is what it is all about. I just felt the World Cup was so crucial for me. I felt just for once I wanted to really show them that even against the best in the world, I could play the same as I had done for my club.

"If we went out, we wanted to go out with style and I think we achieved that, even if there is regret because we will never have a better chance to beat Brazil than that night in Nantes. Now I want to use all my energy for Chelsea, because that will be tough enough."

The move to Stamford Bridge was a challenge in itself. Laudrup was caught up in the middle of the messy business of the departure of Ruud Gullit and his replacement as manager by Gianluca Vialli. Gullit even suggested that the machinations surrounding Laudrup's proposed transfer from Rangers had alerted him to the fact that something was going on behind his back.

At the same time, Rangers fans were desperate for Laudrup not to leave and he was equally keen not to disappoint people who had been so good to him. "It was a fantastic time there, but when you have won eight trophies in one country, as I did in Scotland, then it gets more difficult to motivate yourself. After a while, you feel you have already tried it and you have to move on to something different.

"At Rangers, it sometimes seemed to be just about Gazza and me. The supporters forgot about the nine other players and said that Gazza and I had to perform and if we didn't then we were to blame if we did not win.

"But here at Chelsea, if I am not playing well or Zola is not playing well, then you have got other players. If you are dependent on one or two players, then what happens if they are injured or go through a loss of form? You can't base everything on two or three players — but if you look at our squad now, we have got two players for every position and that is a great strength."

Quite where Laudrup fits into the Stamford Bridge puzzle remains to be seen. Right wing, left wing, behind the front two, off the shoulder of the centre forward — that is his gift. He is damnably difficult to pin down.

'It was very difficult because you couldn't play as a normal child'

Francis bearing burden of the asset-strippers

By Russell Kempson

EVERYTHING should be hunky dory at St Andrew's. Birmingham City have lost only one of their nine matches this season and lie in first place in the Nationwide League first division. Veteran Birmingham watchers agree that it is the best squad assembled at the club for many a year.

However, Trevor Francis, the Birmingham manager, is still worried. Attendances at the three-sided ground — the Railway End is in a dishevelled state of redevelopment — have only once passed 19,000 in five matches this season. If they do not improve, Francis may have to consider offloading some of his assets.

"My concern is that I've built a squad that is as good as anything in this league but if the crowds don't come, I know what is going to happen," Francis said yesterday. "Sooner or later, the owners are going to say to me: 'You've got to start generating some money' — and that means having to sell one of my top players."

Dele Adebola, who has already scored six goals this season, would appear a prime target for would-be suitors. Big, strong, and skilful with it — as Bolton Wanderers may discover at the Reebok Stadium this afternoon — he is emerging as one of the few Nationwide League players that the FA Carling Premiership clubs might be interested in.

Chris Wright, the chairman of Queens Park Rangers, who have yet to win a league match this season, is perhaps wisely, avoiding the game against Watford at Vicarage Road. Wright owns 50 per cent of The Glow-Worm and will be travelling north to watch him run in the St Leger at Doncaster.

Dave Thomas, the editor of a QPR fanzine, said: "I can understand that his loyalties are divided. I think I'd probably accept the chance to go to the St Leger rather than watch Rangers, the way they are playing at the moment."

Port Vale have signed Simon Barker, the former QPR midfield player, on a non-contract basis. Barker, 33, has been training at Vale Park for the past month and is in the squad for the away game against Crystal Palace today.

Asian teams banned for trying to lose

THAILAND and Indonesia have been suspended indefinitely from international competition by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) after they took part in a match in which both sides tried to lose. Neither country will be able to play until the AFC's disciplinary committee files a report to its executive at a meeting in Lebanon on October 23.

Peter Velappan, general secretary of the AFC, said: "We are very concerned with this farcical match. It was a case of deliberate match fixing by Indonesia and Thailand. This match brought gross disrepute to the game of football."

The Tiger Cup group match took place on August 31 after Thailand and Indonesia had said earlier that they did not want to win — an outcome that would have meant them playing Vietnam, the hosts and cup favourites, in the semi-finals. With the match level at 2-2 in injury-time, Mursyid Effendi, of Indonesia, turned and drove the ball into his own net. The goalkeeper, his teammate, made no attempt to save it.

Philippe Troussier has been appointed as the new coach of Japan. The Frenchman has signed a two-year contract until June 2000, with a three-month option that would be implemented if Japan qualify for the Sydney Olympics.

Troussier, 43, who coached South Africa during the World Cup finals, was recommended to the Japanese FA by Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager.

Wenger adds Ljungberg to his arsenal

By Russell Kempson

ENGLAND'S 2-1 defeat against Sweden in their European championship qualifying match in Stockholm last Saturday caused much angst back home, yet for Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, it confirmed everything he had hoped for.

Yesterday, Fredrik Ljungberg — the object of his attention — signed from Halmstads for a fee of £3 million. The Sweden midfield player, who played a key role in England's downfall, will earn a reputed £400,000 a year at Highbury.

"We had good reports about Fredrik," Wenger said. "We had watched him for a while and finally made the decision when I saw him on Saturday. I like his intelligence, he has good pace, and he has all the attributes to be successful in the modern game."

Ljungberg, 21, made his debut for Halmstad four years ago and has made five senior appearances for Sweden. He is ineligible for Arsenal's match against Leicester City today and also for their European Cup Champions' League match away to Lens, of France, next Wednesday.

Ron Atkinson, the former Sheffield Wednesday manager, has emerged as favourite to take over as coach of South Africa. Atkinson met officials from the South African Football Association after travelling to Johannesberg and made a good impression. "I'm very keen to try my hand at international football," he said.

Carlos Alberto Parreira, the former Brazil coach, and Rudi Krol, the former Holland player, will be interviewed next week. The South African FA is expected to announce its choice in a fortnight, but it is unlikely that the new coach will be in place for their opening African Nations' Cup qualifying match against Angola on October 3.

France, the world champions, may withdraw from the Confederations' Cup in Mexico in January. The tournament clashes with two rounds of league fixtures and the opening rounds of the French Cup and League Cup.

"There is a strong possibility that France might not be able to go," Guy Mislin, the French league press officier, said. English and Italian clubs have said already that they are unlikely to release players to take part in the competition, which is due to involve Mexico, United States, Brazil, Bolivia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Australia and France.

Hoddle's future set to become more clouded

THE prospect of Glenn Hoddle leading England beyond 2000 — assuming he makes it that far — appears to be diminishing by the day. Having lost the support of the press and a growing number of players, the England coach is quickly losing allies along the corridors of the Football Association.

Such is the level of discontent at Hoddle's handling of the side since the World Cup that a number of councillors on the international committee — the FA body that is responsible for the hiring, and occasionally firing, of England coaches — are ready to withdraw the proposed offer of a two-year contract extension.

It has been assumed that the new deal needs only the coach's signature. More than one dissenting member of the committee was anxious to point out this week, however, that, contrary to widespread belief, the extension had yet to be formally ratified and is unlikely to be so at the next meeting on Friday because of growing misgivings at Hoddle's man-management.

The principle concern, and one that will be the subject of some pointed questioning to Hoddle on Friday, is his World Cup diary which has been nothing short of disastrous. In terms of public relations calamities, it only just beats his advancement of Eileen Drewery which one committee member believes has "invited ridicule".

It has been an appalling week for Hoddle, or David Icke as some mischievous players are known to call him. In the last seven days, he has seen his team beaten by Sweden, Paul Ince admit to giving a V-sign to John Gorman, the assistant coach, after being sent off in that 2-1 defeat, and the Neville brothers, the most uncontroversial characters in the squad, call his player dealings into question over the way in which Phil was left out of the World Cup party.

"We can handle the fact that the press seem to be after him," said a source, "but what is very worrying is whether the players are behind him or not."

Gould in rage

THE behaviour of Hoddle looks positively normal compared to the eccentricities of Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, whose handling of the Robbie Savage affair caused huge disquiet among the squad. Savage was thrown out of the 22 for a television stunt which involved hurling a Paolo Maldini shirt to the ground, and then reinstated.

The Wales team was then beaten 2-0 by Italy, but you would never have guessed from Gould's reaction. The former Coventry City and Wimbledon manager has taken to ringing journalists who dare to criticise his team, to the extent that he dragged the editor of Teletext out of bed at 1am to berate him for the scandalous headline "Lacklustre Wales".

Flowers wanted

THE transfer grapevine brings news of a £4 million bid by Aston Villa for Tim Flowers, the Blackburn Rovers and England goalkeeper. With Mark Bosnich adamant that he will not sign a new contract at Villa Park and move on as a free agent in the summer, the Midlands club have targetted Flowers, even though he is 31.

Another player who could be on the move soon is Chris Armstrong, who appears to be surplus to requirements at Tottenham Hotspur. He has been offered as bait by the London club in swap deals for both Chris Sutton, the Blackburn striker, and Paul Merson, who moved this week from Middlesbrough to Aston Villa.

MATT DICKINSON

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Matt Dickinson

Harry Redknapp, the West Ham United manager, was almost speechless with rage after his side's shocking capitulation to Wimbledon in midweek. Neil Ruddock also lost his tongue, having been banned by his manager from a post-match appearance on the Channel 5 chat show, *Under the Moon*.

Redknapp thought, presumably, that silence was best because no plausible explanation could be offered for how a 3-0 lead could be transformed into a 3-4 defeat. It was a surrender that defied belief and words.

Still, in football there is always the next game to look forward to and the chance for West Ham to redeem themselves comes this afternoon against, erm, a rampant Liverpool side.

In the absence of the injured Rio Ferdinand, it is difficult to see how West Ham will stop Michael Owen — the leading scorer in the FA Carling Premiership, with four goals — or his fellow Merseysiders. Well as Ruddock has done to rejuvenate his career back in London, he is not the rock on which you would choose to build a defence that must cope with Owen.

Victory for Liverpool will foster the belief that they can build a credible challenge in the FA Carling Premiership. Doubts must remain over any defence that has Phil Babb at its heart, but Jamie Carragher has improved dramatically and is filling out physically into a solid centre half.

Wednesday night was not only significant for Liverpool in that they went top of the Premiership. Across in Wrexham, Robbie Fowler kicked six goals in a friendly as he continues his recovery from knee surgery.

It is easy to forget just how prolific the England striker has been, with 92 league goals in 160 appearances for his club — an average of more than 20 per season. One place he has certainly not been forgotten is at Old Trafford, where Alex Ferguson instructed his board that if he could not purchase Dwight Yorke, he wanted all efforts poured into the chase for the Liverpool forward. West Ham will be grateful that Fowler requires more practice games before he makes his first-team comeback because they have enough defensive problems already.

WEST HAM UNITED (probable, 3-4-1-2): S Hislop — I Pearce, N Ruddock, J Margas — T Sinclair, F Lampard, J Moncur, S Lazaridis — E Berkovic — I Wright, J Hanson.
LIVERPOOL (probable; 4-4-2): B Friedel — V Heggem, J Carragher, P Babb, S Staunton — S McManaman, P Ince, J Redknapp, P Berger — M Owen, K Riedle
Referee: J Winter.
Premiership record v Liverpool at Upton Park: Played 5, Won 2, Drawn 1, Lost 2, For 7, Against 5
Leading scorers: 3 I Wright (West Ham United), 4 M Owen (Liverpool).
Websites: www.westhamunited.co.uk
LADBROKES ODDS: West Ham United 13-8, Liverpool 11-8, draw 11-5.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, extended highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Moronic booing of Paul Ince by the home crowd. Oh, and a Liverpool victory.

WEST HAM
v
LIVERPOOL
Today, 3.00pm (sold out)

Keith Pike

After a month dominated by diaries of dubious quality, assorted tomes and now boardroom manoeuvrings, it has gone almost unnoticed that much of the football played in the FA Carling Premiership so far has been insipid and unimaginative. At Filbert Street this afternoon, Arsenal could do the game a huge favour by reminding the country of the qualities that made them champions.

Four games into last season, Arsène Wenger's team had collected nine goals (Bergkamp five) and a host of admirers for the fluency of their attacking play. The total today stands at two (Bergkamp nought), the ugly confrontation at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday producing their third successive goalless draw. The player of the year became a father during the week and Bergkamp must be hoping that it is now his turn to deliver.

By delving into the transfer market yesterday, Wenger indicated that he, too, is far from happy with Arsenal's start. At £3 million, Fredrik Ljunberg, the young Sweden striker, may represent shrewd business. Ljunberg's pace and control caught the eye against England.

Leicester, whose home defeat by Middlesbrough in midweek would have shocked those who saw the inspired and inventive manner in which they overwhelmed Everton in their previous home game, could not have had a more timely boost than the decision by Emil Heskey, their precocious striker, to sign an extended contract committing himself for another year.

LEICESTER CITY (probable: 3-5-2): K Keller — F Sinclair, M Elliott, P Kaamark, — R Savage, T Zagorakis, N Lennon, M Izzet, S Guppy — E Heskey, A Cottee.
ARSENAL (probable, 4-4-2): O Seaman — L Dixon, A Adams, M Keown, N Winterburn — R Parlour, P Vieira, S Hughes, M Overmars — O Bergkamp, N Anelka.
Referee: P Durkin.
Premiership record v Arsenal at Filbert Street: Played 3, Won 1, Drawn 1, Lost 1, For 5, Against 6.
Leading scorer: 2 A Cottee (Leicester City); 1 E Petit, M Overmars (Arsenal).
Suspended: E Petit (Arsenal).
Websites: www.lcfc.co.uk; www.arsenal.co.uk
WILLIAM HILL ODDS: Leicester 2-1, Arsenal 11-10, Draw 9-4.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day, extended highlights.*
■ PREDICTION: Arsenal back on the winning track.

LEICESTER
v
ARSENAL
Today, 3.00pm (sold out)

Matt Dickinson

David Pleat could barely tie the laces of his old boots quickly enough, such was his delight at being let loose once more on the Tottenham Hotspur training ground. Do not believe a word when he talks about being a reluctant caretaker.

Pleat has been told by the board that he will not succeed Christian Gross as manager of Spurs, but that will not stop him making the strongest possible bid for the post — and he is already off to a flying start.

The 2-1 victory over Blackburn Rovers this week was an assured performance and, after the nonsensical tactics and team selection of Gross's regime, the players are thrilled to be playing for a manager they can understand. They were even more delighted when they were given a day off this week. "What's one of them?" someone asked after the boot camp regime of the departed Swiss coach.

For Pleat, it is as if he has never been away, with even the strategy for the game on Wednesday night a throwback to his time as the Tottenham manager in the Eighties. Then, it was Clive Allen as the lone striker ahead of a midfield five that had Glenn Hoddle as its floating maestro. Now, it is Les Ferdinand up front, with David Ginola providing the bullets, although from a position wide on the left, where he is under orders not to stray.

Unless Hoddle resigns suddenly as England coach, Pleat may have ample time to enjoy his role back in the dressing-room. Conveniently, he moved his director of football desk to the training ground in Chigwell this summer and, if results go well, he may take up squatter's rights in the manager's office next door.

Pleat knows he can only improve on Gross's performance, so he is operating in a largely pressure-free environment. Not something that can be said about Bryan Robson, although that pressure will have been eased by the midweek victory against Leicester City.

Paul Gascoigne provided a virtuoso's flourish at Filbert Street to win the game and deflect stories of drinking and gambling at the Riverside, but one suspects that not too much should be read into one result or one goal, however brilliant.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (probable; 4-5-1): E Baardsen — S Carr, S Campbell, C Calderwood, P Tramezzani — R Fox, A Nielsen, N Berti, S Clemence, O Ginola — L Ferdinand.
MIDDLESBROUGH (probable; 3-5-2): M Schwarzer — C Cooper, S Vickers, G Pallister — G Festa, R Mustoe, P Gascoigne, N Maddison, O Gordon — H Ricard, M Beck
Referee: S Dunn.
Premiership record v Middlesbrough at White Hart Lane: Played 3, Won 1, Drawn 2, Lost 0, For 4, Against 3.
Leading scorers: 2 L Ferdinand (Tottenham Hotspur); 1 M Beck, P Gascoigne, H Ricard (Middlesbrough).
Website: www.spurs.co.uk
LADBROKES ODDS: Tottenham Hotspur 5-4 on, Middlesbrough 11-4, Draw 12-5.

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: Live on Sky Sports 1 from 3pm.
■ PREDICTION: Cries of "Pleat in" as Tottenham triumph.

TOTTENHAM
v
MIDDLESBROUGH
Tomorrow, 4.00pm

Russell Kempson

Paul Merson's arrival at Villa Park on Tuesday, even in this mad, mad, mad, mad world of football, must rank as one of the most bizarre signings for many years. Nobody really emerged with any credit, as the stench of conspiracy hung heavy in the Teesside and Midlands air, but then what can you expect from a sport that is swiftly, and grotesquely, selling its soul to the highest bidder?

If a media magnate wants to buy a club, he buys it; if a player wants to leave a club, he leaves it. Loyalty exists in name only; contracts are written to be signed one day and ripped up the next.

Ranting apart, Merson is now a Villa player and will make his debut against Wimbledon this afternoon. Stan Collymore is injured again, most conveniently, so Merson will partner Julian Joachim up front. Who will join Joachim for the Uefa Cup-tie against Stromsgodset, of Norway, on Tuesday night — with Collymore still unfit and Merson ineligible — is a moot point.

A month ago, few would have predicted Villa and Wimbledon to be unbeaten and occupying top-six places in the FA Carling Premiership. That's the way it is, though, and more power to their elbows, too, even if they eventually fade away and the more established names reclaim their supposedly rightful positions.

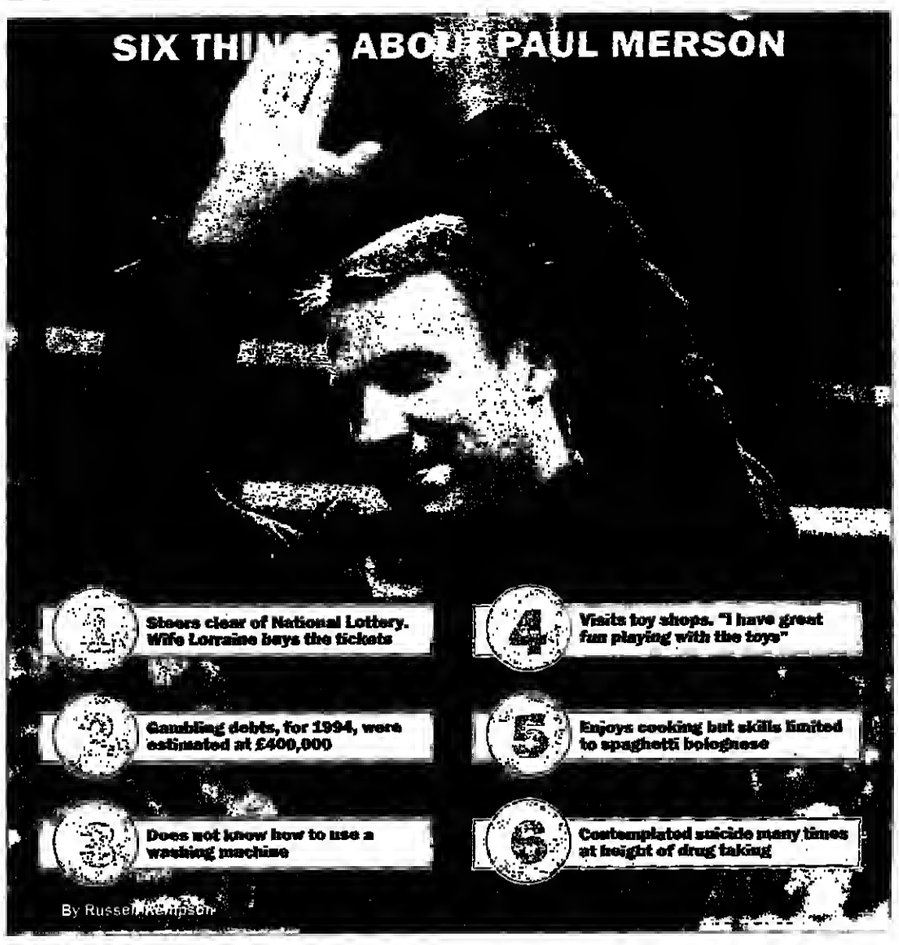
"It's nice being near the top and we don't want to lose our place," John Gregory, the increasingly streetwise Villa manager, said. "Playing Wimbledon is never easy and what they have achieved over the years is an inspiration for every player, coach and supporter."

Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, takes full credit for his continual against-the-odds battle and it would perhaps be interesting to see how he got on with millions of pounds at his disposal at another club. Sam Hammam, the Wimbledon owner, says Kinnear is going nowhere, so, to judge by recent trends, the rotund Irishman could be leading out Tottenham Hotspur against Middlesbrough tomorrow.

ASTON VILLA (probable, 3-5-2): M Bosnich — U Ehiogu, G Southgate, G Barry — G Charles, L Hendrie, M Draper, A Thompson, A Wright — J Joachim, P Merson.
WIMBLEDON (probable, 4-4-2): N Sullivan — O Jupp, K Cunningham, C Perry, A Kimble — J Euell, M Hughes, A Roberts, R Earle — C Leaburn, M Gayle
Referee: O Elleray.
Premiership record v Wimbledon at Villa Park: Played 6, Won 4, Drawn 0, Lost 2, For 16, Against 4
Leading scorers: 2 J Joachim (Aston Villa); 3 E Ekoku (Wimbledon)
Suspended: O Hughes (Aston Villa).
Websites: www.astonvilla-fc.co.uk. www.wimbledon-fc.co.uk.
LADBROKES ODDS: Aston Villa 13-8 on, Wimbledon 4-1, Draw 12-5

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Villa victory.

ASTON VILLA
v
WIMBLEDON
Today, 3.00pm



Peter Robinson

When Mark Kinsella struck his thunderbolt at Old Trafford on Wednesday, the cheer could be heard across the country. Into the net it flew and up went the cry: "Yes! That's perfect. Didn't that just have to happen?" Everybody loves an underdog, you see, and, on the day that Manchester United took the first steps towards world domination, Charlton filled the role beautifully. They took the lead, brilliant; and then reality set in, 4-1 to United. Oh well.

Today, Charlton have to cope with the implications of that defeat, of arriving in the FA Carling Premiership only to see its biggest members preparing to climb away from them once more, of learning the sheer scale of the them-and-us divide. They plan to be unchanged, a sensible vote of confidence from Alan Curbishley, the manager, in his men, and will draw confidence from their last appearance at The Valley, a 5-0 drubbing of dire Southampton.

But do not expect a repeat of that this afternoon. Derby County are unbeaten and have conceded just one goal so far this season, even if they have scored but two. They should also be unchanged, having recorded their first win, against Sheffield Wednesday, in midweek.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (possible: 4-4-2): S Ilic — D Mills, S Brown, E Youds, C Powell — S Newton, N Redfearn, M Kinsella, J Robinson — C Mendonca, A Hunt
DERBY COUNTY (possible, 3-4-3): R Hoult — S Prior, I Stimac, J Laursen — R Delap, L Carsley, L Bohinen, S Schnoor — D Sturridge, F Baiano, P Wanchope
Referee: M Reed
Premiership record v Derby at The Valley: No fixtures.
Leading scorers: 3 C Mendonca (Charlton Athletic), 1 P Wanchope, P Sturridge (Derby County).
Suspended: R Rufus (Charlton Athletic)
Websites: www.charlton-athletic.co.uk; www.dcfc.co.uk
LADBROKES ODDS: Charlton Athletic 11-10, Derby County 2-1, Draw 9-4

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Away win.

CHARLTON
v
DERBY
Today, 3.00pm

George Caulkin

When the season is merely four weeks old, when words like "crisis" have already been used in conjunction with your club, when your manager of a month ago has long since jumped ship and when points have been in desperately short supply, what better time to host the FA Carling Premiership's bottom club. One win later, halfway up the table, for crisis read contentment.

It is a good and worthy plan without a single flaw to undermine its general superiority, yet only the most blindly optimistic of Newcastle United supporters will be approaching the game today with suffering Southampton truly expecting such a happy outcome. Unfortunately, it is a plan somewhat undone by history.

In their ten league meetings since Kevin Keegan led Newcastle to promotion in 1993, Southampton have won six matches and drawn another. Over a similar period, United's record against the likes of Arsenal, Chelsea and even Liverpool — despite all those famed four-goal hammerings — is by some way better. Superstition, hex, Indian Sign, bogey team — however one describes it, David Jones's side will not be made welcome at St James' Park.

Neither will be Matt Le Tissier, who has scored six times in League games against Newcastle over the past six years, and nor for that matter, will Mark Hughes, a player Ruud Gullit knows all about. Le Tissier might not have been a loss of Hendry to Rangers. Dailly, his replacement, has yet to start in the heart of the defence and featured on the right side of midfield in the 2-1 defeat against Tottenham Hotpsur on Wednesday. Sherwood may be recalled now that Tottenham have dropped their interest in the Rovers club captain.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (possible, 4-4-2): S Given — S Watson, L Charvet, P Albert, S Pearce — N Solano, R Lee, G Speed, S Glass — *S Guivarc'h, A Shearer*
SOUTHAMPTON (possible, 4-4-2): P Jones — J Dodd, S Marshall, K Monkou, F Benali — C Palmer, O Howells, S Ripley, W Bridge — M Le Tissier, M Hughes.
Referee: M Riley.
Premiership record v Southampton at St James' Park: Played 5, Won 3, Drawn 0, Lost 2, For 9, Against 5
Leading scorers: 1 A Andersson, S Guivarc'h (Newcastle United), 1 E Ostenstad, M Le Tissier (Southampton)
Suspended: O Batty (Newcastle United), A Sims, (Southampton).
Websites: www.newcastle-utd.co.uk/mutc. www.soton.ac.uk/sports
LADBROKES ODDS: Newcastle United 8-11, Southampton 3-1, draw 5-2.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Gullit's team to break the curse.

NEWCASTLE
v
SOUTHAMPTON
Today, 3.00pm (sold out)

Kevin McCarra

In contravention of the cliché, there are managers who have to take it two games at a time. Alex Ferguson's Manchester United meet Coventry City this afternoon, but he cannot help but notice the shadow that has fallen over the match. It is cast by Barcelona, who visit Old Trafford for a European Cup Champions' League tie on Wednesday.

Any plans must encompass both contests and, with the European game in mind, it could be that Giggs will be kept in reserve today, even if he has recovered from the virus that ruled him out of the 4-1 victory over Charlton Athletic on Wednesday. Ferguson has Blomqvist to deputise for Giggs, as well as a forward pairing of Yorke and Solskjaer to take over from Cole and Sheringham.

Against Charlton, Yorke not only hit his first two goals since the £12.6 million move from Aston Villa, but also reinstated some of the variety that had been missing in the United forward play. After failing to score in the League since December 1997, Solskjaer also found the net twice on Wednesday.

Ferguson last month blocked the transfer of the player to Tottenham Hotspur and there were reports yesterday that the White Hart Lane club, seeking a successor to Christian Gross, now covet the man who denied them the Norwegian. As the years pass, though, Ferguson's absorption with United seems only to deepen and the search for the Champions' League is an aspect of his fascination.

Gordon Strachan, the Coventry City manager, also has a taxing, if less exalted, quest before him. His club has not won at Old Trafford since 1989. Strachan may be inclined to reinforce his midfield, perhaps by allowing Marc Edworthy to start his first game since joining from Crystal Palace.

MANCHESTER UNITED (probable, 4-4-2): P Schmeichel — G Irwin, R Johnsen, J Stam, F Neville — D Beckham, R Keane, P Scholes, J Blomqvist — D G Solskjaer, *D Yorke*
COVENTRY CITY (probable, 4-4-2): M Hedman — R Shaw, J-G Wallemme, G Breen, O Burrows — P Telfer, G Boateng, M Edworthy, T E Soltvedt — D Dublin, D Huckerby
Referee: U Rennie
Premiership record v Coventry City at Old Trafford: Played 6, Won 5, Drawn 1, Lost 0, For 14, Against 1
Leading scorers: 2 D G Solsjaer, D Yorke (Manchester United), 1 D Dublin, D Huckerby (Coventry City)
Suspended: C Barrett (Coventry City)
Websites: www.sky.co.uk/sports/manu. www.ccfc.co.uk
LADBROKES ODDS: Manchester United 2-1 on, Coventry City 5-1, Draw 13-5

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, extended highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Home win, and another goal for Yorke.

MANCHESTER UNITED
v
COVENTRY
Today, 3.00pm (sold out)

Nick Szczepanik

If Chelsea are to challenge for the FA Carling Premiership title, they had better look sharp about winning a match; with only two points from three games, they will have the weight of history against them if they fail to beat Nottingham Forest at Stamford Bridge today.

In the six seasons of the Premiership, only Manchester United, in the inaugural campaign, have begun worse yet finished the season as champions; they lost their two opening games and had only a single point to show from their third, a 1-1 home draw with Ipswich Town — but they won the next five in a row. After a bruising goalless draw with Arsenal in midweek, Gianluca Vialli, the manager, spoke confidently of the imminent return of the old, prolific Chelsea.

Dave Bassett, the Forest manager, was critical of his midfield players in the wake of the home defeat by Everton. Nigel Quashie and Andy Gray were singled out after less-than-satisfactory debuts, but, although both were substituted during the course of the match, continuing injuries to Scot Gemmill and Lee Hodges mean that Bassett may have little option but to persevere with them.

CHELSEA (possible, 4-4-2): E de Goey — D Petrescu, F Leboeuf, M Duberry, G Le Saux — G Poyet, R di Matteo, M Desailly, C Babayaro — P Casiraghi, G Zola
NOTTINGHAM FOREST (probable, 4-5-1). D Beasant — D Lyttle, S Chettle, C Armstrong, T Bonalair — S Stone, A Johnson, N Quashie, G Thomas, A Gray — *J-C Darcheville*
Referee: P Alcock
Premiership record v Nottingham Forest at Stamford Bridge: Played 4, Won 1, Drawn 2, Lost 1, For 2, Against 3.
Leading scorers: 1 C Babayaro, G Poyet (Chelsea) 2 S Stone (Nottingham Forest).
Suspended: D Wise (Chelsea)
Websites: www.chelseafc.co.uk; www.nottinghamforest.co.uk
LADBROKES ODDS: Chelsea 7-4 on, Nottingham Forest 9-2, Draw 12-5.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Chelsea's first win.

CHELSEA
v
NOTTINGHAM FOREST
Today, 3.00pm

Stephen Wood

Managing Everton or Leeds United must be akin to moving into a new home that still needs extensive renovation. Still, George Graham, of Leeds United, could be the proud owner of a plush penthouse before too long, having guided his side impressively into third place in the FA Carling Premiership.

How Walter Smith, of Everton, must wish he could say the same. He is still grappling with life in a dingy bedsit. He may have found the perfect match for Duncan Ferguson up front, but, like a new carpet that cannot be delivered for an age, Ibrahim Bakayoko, the £4.5 million Ivory Coast striker, will have to wait while his work permit is secured.

The encounter today can only provide the best from what's on offer. In Everton's case, that means Ferguson coming to life again. He scored their first goals of the season in the 2-0 win against Nottingham Forest in midweek and should be prized by Smith, for nobody else looks like scoring. Leeds have a couple of Dutchman that complement each other rather nicely in attack. Jimmy-Floyd Hasselbaink and Clive Wijnhard are automatic choices for Graham.

EVERTON (possible, 3-5-2): T Myhre — C Short, D Unsworth, M Materazzi — A Cleland, N Barmby, J Collins, O Dacourt, M Ball — D Ferguson, J Spencer
LEEDS UNITED (possible; 4-4-2): N Martyn — M Hiden, L Radebe, O Wetherall, I Harte — D Hopkin, A-I Haaland, L Bowyer, H Kewell — J F Hasselbaink, C Wijnhard.
Referee: N Barry
Premiership record v Leeds United at Goodison Park: Played 6, Won 4, Drawn 2, Lost 0, For 10, Against 1
Leading scorers: 2 D Ferguson (Everton), 1 L Bowyer, J F Hasselbaink, C Wijnhard, I Harte (Leeds United)
Suspended: M Made (Everton)
Websites: everonfc.merseyworld.com, www.lufc.co.uk
LADBROKES ODDS: Everton 7-4, Leeds United 5-4, draw 9-4

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day, brief highlights.*
■ PREDICTION: away win.

EVERTON
v
LEEDS
Today, 3.00pm

Richard Hobson

Leaving Barnsley for Sheffield Wednesday may not be quite the career move that Danny Wilson had envisaged. For the first time in three years, Wednesday have failed to score in successive home games and if promise in defeat was enough to salve disappointment at Oakwell, then he is finding expectations at Hillsborough rather higher.

Wilson has yet to find a solution to the problem that eluded Ron Atkinson, his predecessor as manager, of how to integrate Di Canio and Carbone to best effect. Di Canio missed the game against Derby County three days ago, which Wednesday lost 1-0, because of illness, but he represents the most likely source of a goal. Booth has not scored for ten games.

Blackburn Rovers, too, have made an uninspired start, in contrast to last season, when they won four of the first five matches and sat at the top of the FA Carling Premiership. Among those successes was a 7-2 triumph against Wednesday, then rooted to the bottom and soon to dismiss David Pleat.

It is hard to think that Blackburn will not challenge for a European place again, despite the loss of Hendry to Rangers. Dailly, his replacement, has yet to start in the heart of the defence and featured on the right side of midfield in the 2-1 defeat against Tottenham Hotpsur on Wednesday. Sherwood may be recalled now that Tottenham have dropped their interest in the Rovers club captain.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (possible, 4-4-2): K Pressman — J Cobian, E Thome, O Walker, A Hinchcliffe — G Whitingham, P Atherton, W Jonk, P Rudi — A Booth, P di Canio.
BLACKBURN ROVERS (possible, 4-4-2): T Flowers — J Kenna, S Henchoz, G Peacock, C Davidson — C Dailly, W McKinlay, T Sherwood, J Wilcox — C Sutton, K Gallacher.
Referee: A Wilkie.
Premiership record v Blackburn Rovers at Hillsborough: Played 6, Won 1, Drawn 3, Lost 2, For 4, Against 5
Leading scorers: 1 each, P Atherton, P Di Canio, A Hinchcliffe (Sheffield Wednesday); 2 K Gallacher (Blackburn)
Websites: www.swfc.co.uk; www.rovers.co.uk
WILLIAM HILL ODDS: Sheffield Wednesday 6-4, Blackburn Rovers 6-4, Draw 11-5.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Draw.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY
v
BLACKBURN
Today, 3.00pm

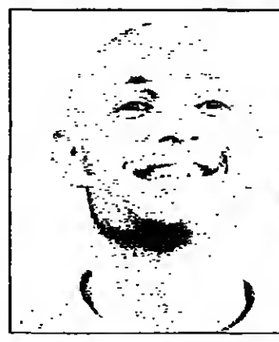
ON MONDAY

Brilliant insights or hopeless guesses? Check our writers' predictions against their weekend match reports

هكذا من الأصل

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Greed threatens to ruin our game



FRANK LEBOEUF

The likelihood of a European super league seems to be increasing by the week and I can only guess that the takeover of Manchester United by BskyB will increase the probability of it happening sooner rather than later. Whether Chelsea are involved or not, I have growing unease about these developments in the game.

This season is only three weeks old and yet already I have played six games — four for Chelsea and two internationals for France. I am being expected to play every three days — and we have not even started the Worthington Cup or FA Cup campaigns. All this and yet, because of the World Cup, I have barely had a rest. Before you get the impression that this is just another spoilt footballer complaining about his lot, I should add that I know how lucky I am to be playing the game I love and earning a good living doing it. My concerns are not just for me, but for the supporters, who are being asked to pay good money to watch tired players.

The situation is crazy and I can only see it getting worse because of the way that some people are trying to run the game. Do we have to play 80 games per year just to please these financial people? Do they want more attractive football or merely more money in their bank accounts? Have they considered whether the game is for them or the supporters? How do they think the fans will be able to afford the time and money to watch their team across Europe every fortnight?

It comes down to television, but it alarms me that some people are trying to make the game an aristocracy. The roots of the sport are being forgotten, especially the fans who love to come to the matches.

The welfare of the players is also being ignored. It feels as if last season finished barely a few weeks ago and now I am expected to fight through games like our FA Carling Premiership match against Arsenal at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday night. It was a tough, physical battle. A couple of days to recover is not enough to be properly ready for the next game on a Saturday and then feel in good shape for the European match the week after.

There is a risk of the standard of football being reduced unless we are careful how we are taking the game forward. The demands on players are growing and they are probably going to get worse before they get better. I understand Fifa is trying to move the dates of the Confederations Cup in Mexico at the beginning of next year, when France are due to take part, because of fixture congestion. If my country wants me to play, I will go to the tournament.

The situation is dangerous and it needs addressing by the powers that be. These are not the moans of a footballer who should appreciate how lucky he is. These are the concerns that the game is being led forward by people with their brains in their wallets.

■ Horses for courses

I am not the only Frank Leboeuf who has been put through his paces recently. Believe it or not, I now have an equine namesake, trained by Alex Stewart, who ran in the 5.40 at Leicester this week.

He ran a pleasing race, finishing in mid-division. The race was won by a very smart two-year-old trained by David Loder for Sheikh Mohammed. The connections of Frank Leboeuf are looking forward to his second run at Goodwood in a fortnight.

■ Captain's honour

Dennis Wise's suspension at Chelsea has given me the chance to become temporary captain and I must say what a great honour it has been. Gianluca Vialli told me only shortly before the match against Newcastle United that I would be wearing the armband and I have taken great pride in it.

I was captain at Strasbourg for two years and I have never been the type to rant and rave in the dressing room before kick-off. I settle for reminding the team that we are in it together and that no one should think that they can win the game on their own. I don't know if it made any sense, but I am reliably told my English was better than Dennis normally manages.

■ A worthy cause

Why have your own newspaper column if you cannot plug the things that matter to you, especially when it involves a very worthwhile cause. Children are hugely important to me and there is one disease, Giant Naevus, that I am supporting because it is not recognised at the moment by the health department or social security.

Children with this illness have black stains all over their body, which can take 15 operations to clear. As you can imagine, it costs a family lots of patience, time and money, yet it is one of more than 50 rare diseases that are not recognised in law for families to receive financial help. This is a small plea for their case to be heard.

Next week: Gary Neville

WEEKEND MATCHES

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket*
Pools coupon numbers in brackets

PREMIERSHIP

(1) Aston Villa v Wimbledon
(2) Charlton v Derby
(3) Chelsea v Nottingham Forest
(4) Everton v Leeds
(5) * Leicester v Arsenal
(6) Manchester Utd v Coventry
(7) Newcastle v Southampton
(8) Sheffield Wednesday v Blackburn
(9) West Ham v Liverpool

FIRST DIVISION

(10) Bolton v Birmingham
(11) Bradford v Sheffield Utd
(13) Crystal Palace v Port Vale
(14) Grimsby v Barnsley
(15) Oxford Utd v Ipswich
(16) Portsmouth v Swindon
(17) Stockport v Crewe
(18) Watford v Queens Park Rangers
(19) Wolverhampton v Sunderland

SECOND DIVISION

(20) Bournemouth v Wigan
(21) Burnley v Wycombe
(22) Chesterfield v Walsall
(23) Colchester v Gillingham
(24) Lincoln v Blackpool
(25) Luton v Bristol Rovers
(26) * Macclesfield v Manchester City
(27) Northampton v Oldham
(28) Notts County v Fulham
(29) Preston v Reading
(30) Stoke v Millwall
(31) York v Wrexham

THIRD DIVISION

(32) Barnet v Hull
(33) Brentford v Rotherham
(34) Brighton v Southend
(35) Cambridge Utd v Leyton Orient
(36) Chester v Torquay
(37) Hartlepool v Exeter
(38) Mansfield v Carlisle
(39) Plymouth v Darlington
(-) Rochdale v Scunthorpe
(-) Shrewsbury v Peterborough
(-) Swansea v Scarborough

CONFERENCE

(-) Barrow v Hereford
(-) Forest Green v Kettering
(-) Hayes v Doncaster
(-) Hednesford v Dover
(-) Kidderminster v Farnborough
(-) Kingstonian v Cheltenham
(-) Leek v Woking
(-) Morecambe v Stevenage
(-) Rushden and Diamonds v Telford
(-) Southport v Welling
(-) Yeovil v Northwich

SCOTTISH PREMIER

(40) Aberdeen v Motherwell
(41) Celtic v Kilmarnock
(42) Dundee Utd v Rangers
(43) Hearts v Dundee
(44) St Johnstone v Dunfermline

FIRST DIVISION

(45) Airdrie v Greenock Morton
(46) Clydebank v Ayr
(47) Raith v Falkirk
(48) St Mirren v Hibernian
(49) Stranraer v Hamilton

SECOND DIVISION

(-) Alloa v Clyde
(-) Forfar v East Fife
(-) Inverness CT. v Queen Of South
(-) Livingston v Arbroath
(-) Partick v Stirling

THIRD DIVISION

(-) Brechin v Dumbarton
(-) Cowdenbeath v Berwick
(-) East Stirling v Albion
(-) Queen's Park v Ross County
(-) Stenhousemuir v Montrose

TOMORROW

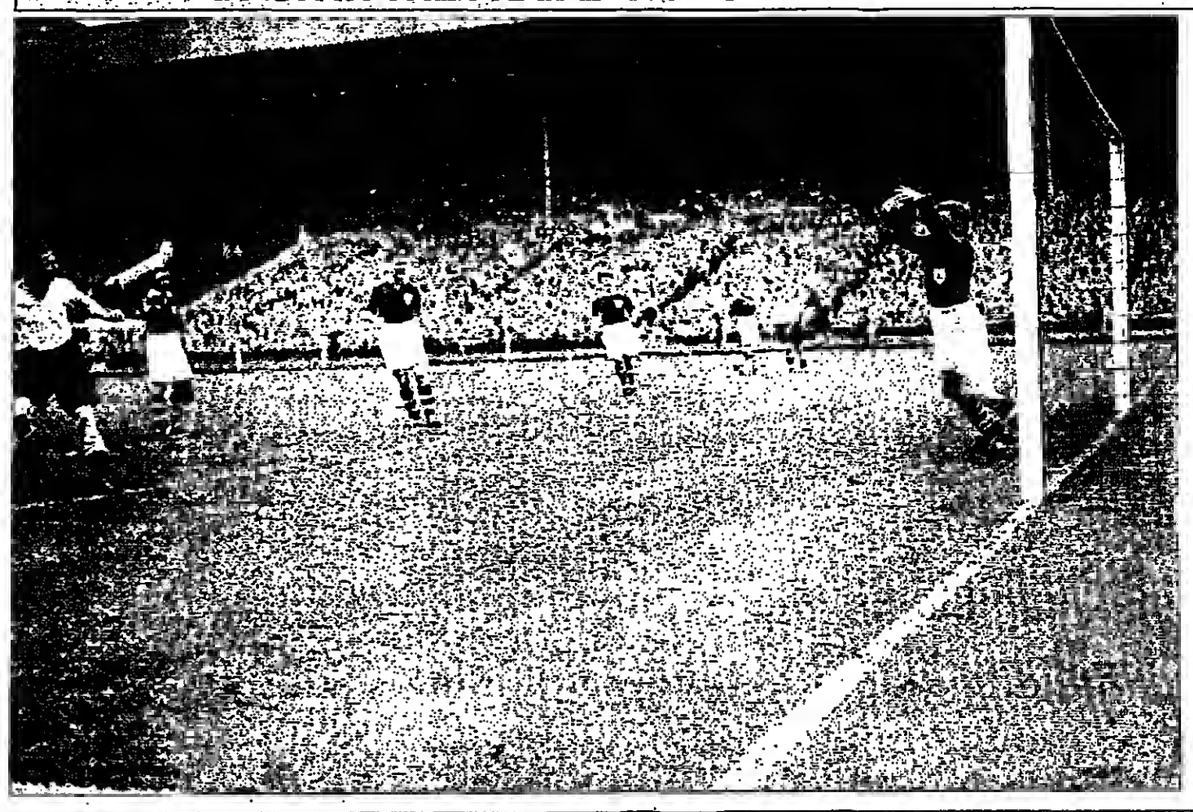
PREMIERSHIP

Tottenham v Middlesbrough (4.0)

FIRST DIVISION

Bristol City v West Bromwich (1.0)
Norwich v Bury (1.0)

BACK IN THE FRAME: SAM'S DEFLATING EXPERIENCE



THE MEETING of Charlton Athletic and Derby County at the Valley today may not live up to the superlative standards of their meeting in the FA Cup Final of 1946, but at least the ball may survive the afternoon.

The first postwar Wembley final was won 4-1 by Derby after extra time and Bert Turner, of Charlton, became the first man to score at both ends in a Cup Final.

There was one even stranger incident, though, when the ball burst near the end of normal time. Sam Bartram, the legendary Charlton goalkeeper (pictured left), caught the ball and, feeling the air rushing out of it, hurled it into touch before the referee could award a bounce-up in his six-yard area. Five days later, the teams met again in a league match — and the ball burst again.

Derby were watched by a crowd of 76,588 in the sixth round and 80,407 in the semi-final replay while Charlton's semi-final drew 70,819.

Richard Whitehead

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

(August 30 position in brackets)	PLAYED	POINTS	GOAL DIFF	HOME W	HOME D	HOME L	HOME F	HOME A	AWAY W	AWAY D	AWAY L	AWAY F	AWAY A	LAST 10 MATCHES W-D-L	CURRENT STREAK
1. LIVERPOOL (6)	4	10	+6	1	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	6	2	6-2-2	W2
2. ASTON VILLA (3)	4	10	+4	2	0	0	4	1	1	1	0	1	0	8-1-1	W3
3. LEEDS UTD (7)	4	8	+4	2	0	0	4	0	0	2	0	1	1	4-4-2	W1
4. WIMBLEDON (4)	4	8	+3	1	1	0	4	2	1	1	0	4	3	2-6-2	W1
5. ARSENAL (5)	4	6	+1	1	1	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	5-3-2	D3
6. DERBY COUNTY (14)	4	6	+1	1	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	4-3-3	W1
7. NOTTINGHAM FOREST (11)	4	6	-1	1	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	3	3	6-2-2	L1
8. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (19)	4	6	-3	1	0	1	2	4	1	0	1	2	3	4-3-3	W2
9. MANCHESTER UNITED (12)	3	5	+3	1	1	0	6	3	0	1	0	0	0	6-4-0	W1
10. CHARLTON (1)	4	5	+2	1	0	0	5	0	0	2	1	1	4	6-3-1	L1
11. WEST HAM UNITED (8)	4	5	0	0	1	1	3	4	1	1	0	1	0	3-4-3	L1
12. MIDDLESBROUGH (17)	4	5	-1	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	1	2	3	6-3-1	W1
13. LEICESTER CITY (2)	4	4	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	1	1	2	3	4-3-3	L2
14. BLACKBURN ROVERS (16)	4	4	-1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	3	3-2-5	L1
15. EVERTON (18)	4	4	-1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	2	2	2-4-4	W1
16. COVENTRY CITY (10)	4	4	-2	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	2	0	3	2-6-2	L1
17. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (9)	4	3	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	1	3	1	2-1-7	L2
18. CHELSEA (15)	3	2	-1	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	4-2-4	D2
19. NEWCASTLE UNITED (13)	4	2	-4	0	1	1	1	4	0	1	1	1	2	2-4-4	L2
20. SOUTHAMPTON (20)	4	0	-10	0	0	2	2	4	0	0	2	0	8	1-2-7	L4

SATURDAY STATISTICS

ATTACK

	Goals scored	Avge
1. Liverpool	6	2.00
= Wimbledon	6	2.00
3. Manchester Utd	6	2.00
4. Charlton	6	1.50
5. Aston Villa	5	1.25
= Leeds	5	1.25
7. Leicester	4	1.00
= Nottm Forest	4	1.00
= Tottenham	4	1.00
= West Ham	4	1.00
11. Middlesbrough	3	0.75
= Sheffield Wed	3	0.75
13. Chelsea	2	0.67
14. Arsenal	2	0.50
= Blackburn	2	0.50
= Coventry	2	0.50
= Derby	2	0.50
= Everton	2	0.50
= Newcastle	2	0.50
= Southampton	2	0.50

DEFENCE

	Goals conceded	Avge
1. Arsenal	1	0.25
= Aston Villa	1	0.25
= Derby	1	0.25
= Leeds	1	0.25
5. Liverpool	2	0.50
6. Blackburn	3	0.75
= Everton	3	0.75
= Sheffield Wed	3	0.75
9. Charlton	4	1.00
= West Ham	4	1.00
= Middlesbrough	4	1.00
= Leicester	4	1.00
= Coventry	4	1.00
14 Chelsea	3	1.00
= Manchester Utd	3	1.00
16. Nottm Forest	5	1.25
= Wimbledon	5	1.25
18. Newcastle	6	1.50
19. Tottenham	7	1.75
20. Southampton	12	3.00

INDIVIDUALS

Goalscorers	Scored
M Owen (Liverpool)	4
E Ekoku (Wimbledon)	3
C Mendonca (Charlton)	3
I Wright (West Ham)	3
Goalkeepers	**Conceded**
S Given (Newcastle)	8
P Jones (Southampton)	8
O Beassant (Nottm Forest)	5
N Sullivan (Wimbledon)	5

SPREAD EAGLE

THE PRODIGAL son returns to White Hart Lane on Sunday — not wearing a Tottenham shirt, of course, but they probably haven't got a jersey big enough any more. The visit of Paul Gascoigne to North London with Middlesbrough is still likely to be an emotional occasion and City Index offer a point for every minute that the Geordie boy stays on the pitch and 25 points if he hits the back of the net, with spread set at 91-94.

Difficult one to call that, but with his hyperactive and excitable nature, Gazza does stand every chance of getting booked — or worse. The boy's capacity for making the headlines for the wrong reasons knows no bounds. So, I would suggest going for the total bookings spread with City Index. They offer a spread of 35-38, as opposed to Sporting Index's 40-43, with ten points for a yellow card and 25 for seeing red. That means that, with City, you need only four players to be booked to be in the money.

Around the rest of the Premiership, City offer an intriguing hot-shot spread involving Casiraghi, Anelka, Yorke, Shearer and Owen. A goal by any of the aforementioned strikers is worth 25 points, with 12 points awarded if any one of them doesn't play. The spread is set at a tantalising 64-69. So if you fancy Shearer to break his duck at last against Southampton, the worst team in the Premiership at present, you might want to buy.

Clive Petty

TELEVISION AND RADIO

TODAY BBC1: 12.35: Football Focus. 11.00: Match of the Day, featuring Leicester City v Arsenal, West Ham United v Liverpool and Manchester United v Coventry. **TOMORROW Sky Sports 2:** Noon: Norwich City v Bury, live. **Sky Sports 1:** 3pm: Tottenham Hotspur v Middlesbrough, live.

TODAY Radio 5 Live: Live action from the English and Scottish Premierships. **Talk Radio:** 3pm: Live commentary from Wolverhampton Wanderers v Sunderland. **TOMORROW Radio 5 Live:** 4pm: Live commentary from Tottenham Hotspur v Middlesbrough.

Statistics compiled by Julian Desborough

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Birmingham	7	5	1	1	11	3	16
Sunderland	5	4	2	0	14	3	14
Bury	7	4	2	1	7	2	14
Wolvrhmptn	5	4	1	1	10	4	13
* Huddersfld	7	4	1	2	10	7	13
Norwich	5	4	0	1	11	8	12
West Brom	6	3	1	2	14	11	10
Sheff Utd	7	3	1	3	11	13	10
Bolton	5	2	3	0	11	8	9
Stockport	7	2	3	2	8	9	9
Watford	6	3	0	3	6	10	9
Ipswich	8	2	3	3	6	7	9
Swindon	7	2	2	3	10	11	8
Grimsby	7	2	2	3	8	8	8
C Palace	5	2	2	1	7	6	8
Portsmth	7	1	3	3	9	11	8
Crewe	6	2	0	4	7	8	8
Barnsley	6	1	3	2	8	9	6
Oxford Utd	7	1	2	4	8	11	5
Bristol City	7	0	4	3	9	14	4
Bradford	8	1	1	4	6	11	4
Port Vale	5	1	1	4	4	12	4
QPR	6	0	3	3	3	9	3
* Tranmere	5	0	3	2	2	9	3

* Does not include last night's match

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stoke	7	6	0	1	14	5	18
Preston	7	4	2	1	16	10	14
Luton	7	4	2	1	9	6	14
Fulham	6	4	2	0	7	1	14
Bournemth	7	3	2	2	8	8	11
Man City	8	3	2	1	9	6	11
Blackpool	7	3	2	2	9	10	11
Wrexham	7	3	2	2	8	10	11
Bristol R	7	2	4	1	11	8	10
Walsall	8	3	1	2	9	8	10
York	8	3	1	2	8	8	10
Colchester	7	3	1	3	8	8	10
Millwall	6	3	1	2	6	6	10
Chesterfld	7	3	1	3	8	5	10
Notts Co	7	2	2	3	7	7	8
Wigan	7	2	1	4	8	8	7
Oldham	7	2	1	4	8	12	7
Burnley	7	2	1	4	6	9	7
Gillingham	7	1	3	3	9	8	6
Northmptn	7	1	3	3	8	9	6
Lincoln	7	1	2	4	5	11	5
Macclsfld	7	1	2	4	3	7	5
Reading	5	1	1	3	5	9	4
Wycombe	6	0	1	6	3	10	1

THIRD DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brentford	7	5	0	2	14	7	15
Scunthrpe	7	5	0	2	13	9	15
Plymouth	7	5	0	2	9	4	15
Darlington	7	4	2	1	10	5	14
* Halifax	7	4	2	1	8	4	14
Peterboro	7	4	1	2	20	7	13
Rotherham	7	4	1	2	10	7	13
Southend	7	3	2	2	8	7	11
Mansfield	7	3	2	2	7	7	11
Hartlpool	7	3	1	3	8	8	10
Brighton	7	3	1	3	7	7	10
Torquay	7	3	1	3	7	7	10
* Cardiff	7	3	1	3	7	8	10
Scarboro	7	3	0	4	12	10	9
Cambs Utd	7	3	0	4	11	11	9
L Orient	7	2	3	2	8	11	9
Exeter	7	3	0	4	5	8	9
Chester	7	2	2	3	8	12	8
Hull	7	2	1	4	9	12	7
Swansea	7	2	1	4	7	8	7
Rochdale	7	2	1	4	5	8	7
Carlisle	7	2	0	5	7	10	6
Barnet	7	2	0	5	5	17	6
Shrewsbury	7	1	0	6	3	13	3

* Does not include last night's match

SCOTLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	4	3	0	1	10	4	9
Celtic	4	2	1	1	10	5	7
Kilmarnock	4	2	1	1	6	3	7
Aberdeen	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Motherwll	4	2	1	1	3	2	7
Hearts	4	2	1	1	4	4	7
Dunfrmline	4	1	2	1	3	6	5
St Johnstn	4	1	1	2	1	5	4
Dundee Utd	4	0	1	3	1	5	1
Dundee	4	0	1	3	1	8	1

SECOND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inverness CT.	5	4	1	0	11	4	13
Partick	6	3	1	1	6	4	10
Clyde	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
Livingston	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
Stirling	5	2	1	2	6	10	7
Alloa	5	1	2	2	11	6	5
Forfar	5	1	2	2	6	7	5
East Fife	5	1	2	2	6	10	5
Arbroath	5	1	1	3	3	8	4
Queen Of S	5	0	2	3	2	6	2

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Falkirk	5	4	1	0	6	1	13
Hamilton	5	3	2	0	8	4	11
Hibernian	5	2	2	1	9	7	8
Airdrie	5	2	2	1	4	3	8
St Mirren	5	2	1	2	3	4	7
Clydebank	5	1	3	1	6	5	6
Raith	5	1	2	2	2	4	5
Ayr	5	1	1	3	5	8	4
Stranraer	5	1	0	4	3	7	3
G Morton	5	0	2	3	3	6	2

THIRD DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ross Co	5	5	0	0	16	1	15
Brechin	5	3	2	0	8	3	11
Dumbarton	5	3	1	1	5	3	10
Cowdnbth	5	3	0	2	8	6	9
Stenhsmuir	5	2	1	2	4	3	7
Albion	5	2	0	3	5	14	6
Queen's Pk	5	1	2	2	6	5	5
Berwick	5	1	2	2	3	7	5
East Stirling	5	0	1	4	3	7	1
Montrose	5	0	1	4	4	13	1

CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rushden & D.	8	7	1	0	22	3	22
Cheltenham	8	5	2	1	18	8	17
Kingstonian	8	5	2	1	13	10	17
Stevenage	8	4	3	1	9	5	15
Hednesford	8	4	3	1	10	7	15
Yeovil	8	4	1	3	12	11	13
Kettering	8	3	3	2	11	7	12
Southport	7	3	3	1	10	8	12
Dover	8	3	3	2	8	9	12
Kidderminstr	7	3	1	3	13	10	10
Morecambe	8	3	1	4	12	22	10
Leek	7	3	0	4	14	7	9
Hereford	7	2	2	3	8	10	8
Welling	8	1	5	2	8	10	8
Northwich	8	2	2	4	6	9	8
Hayes	7	2	2	3	8	13	8
Barrow	8	2	2	4	11	18	8
Farnborough	7	1	3	3	6	12	6
Doncaster	7	1	2	4	5	8	5
Forest Green	7	1	2	4	8	10	5
Telford	7	0	4	3	4	10	4
Woking	7	0	1	8	9	17	1

The cat's whiskers. Sprite

MOTOR RACING: CHAMPIONSHIP LEADER FALTERS IN FIRST PRACTICE SESSION FOR ITALIAN GRAND PRIX

Hakkinen feeling heat from Ferrari

FROM KEVIN EASON AT MONZA

AS THE rain tumbled from the dark sky, Mika Hakkinen put an arm around his wife, huddled under a silver umbrella and scuttled through the puddles to the sanctuary of the McLaren motorhome. The man who would be world champion has been almost invisible in the run-up to the Italian Grand Prix, and he wants it to stay that way.

While David Coulthard, his team-mate, has been embroiled in the high-profile aftermath of his dispute with Michael Schumacher, Hakkinen has barely been seen or heard, content to restrict his company to his wife, Erja, and the McLaren-Mercedes engineers who have helped to bring him to the brink of the title he craves.

Yesterday the Finn was less talkative than at any time in this tumultuous season. With a lead of just seven points over Schumacher with three races left, Hakkinen knows that the Formula One world championship is in danger of slithering from his grasp. The sight of rain during practice yesterday probably made his heart sink under the weight of memories of Belgium two weeks ago, where a convincing pole position turned into a first-corner exit.

That performance raised the question once again of whether the driver known as "The Iceman" might be melting under pressure from Schumacher. As the door to the motorhome shut firmly behind the Hakkinens, a McLaren minder kept interlopers at bay with the message that "Mika just wants to chill out". Ron Dennis, the McLaren team director, was at pains to keep a protective arm around the driver he has groomed to be the sixth world champion in McLaren colours.

Knowing that the title could hang on Hakkinen's performance in Ferrari's back yard has clearly been playing on the mind of Dennis. "Right now, more people want to see the world championship go down to the last grand prix than for Mika to take it here or at the next race," he said. "What he must not get into is the mental mathematics of what is or isn't possible at each race.

"He has just got to be cool: there is no other way to be. He has to curb his emotions because it will affect his performance if he doesn't. It is going to be a cool head that wins the world championship, and that doesn't just apply to the drivers but goes right through the whole team."

One driver who knows just how intense the pressure from Schumacher can be is Damon Hill. "It should be Mika's championship but he has to go for it," he said. "That is the only way for him to beat Michael."

Hakkinen's performance during first practice yesterday was less than promising. He finished fifth, behind the Williams of Jacques Villeneuve and well adrift of the top triumvirate of Eddie Irvine, Schumacher and Coulthard. However, Irvine gave warning that his leading time will probably not be relevant when the driving starts in earnest this afternoon for qualifying. Nor was his Ferrari team trying especially hard because they were at Monza.

Irvine expects Hakkinen still to be the man to beat, setting up an intriguing finish to the championship. "It's got to be 50-50 now and the championship could still go either way," he said. "Michael is going to be very powerful here this weekend, that's for certain, and we have done a lot to close the gap."

Irvine cuts corners in his Ferrari during practice at Monza for the race tomorrow

PRACTICE TIMES FROM MONZA

1, E Irvine (GB, Ferrari) 1min 24.987sec; 2, M Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 1:25.246; 3, D Coulthard (GB, McLaren) 1:25.690; 4, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams) 1:26.053; 5, M Hakkinen (Fin, McLaren) 1:26.159; 6, H-H Frentzen (Ger, Williams) 1:26.528; 7, J Trulli (It, Prost) 1:26.748; 8, D Hill (GB, Jordan) 1:26.838; 9, G Fisichella (It, Benetton) 1:26.885; 10, A Wurz (Austria, Benetton) 1:26.886; 11, R Schumacher (Ger, Jordan) 1:27.079; 12, J Herbert (GB, Sauber) 1:27.541; 13, O Panis (Fr, Prost) 1:27.676; 14, R Barrichello (Br, Stewart) 1:28.066; 15, R Rosset (Br, Tyrrell) 1:28.098; 16, T Takagi (Japan, Tyrrell) 1:28.135; 17, J Verstappen (Holl, Stewart) 1:28.606; 18, E Tuero (Arg, Minardi) 1:28.847; 19, S Nakano (Japan, Minardi) 1:28.849; 20, M Salo (Fin, Arrows) 1:29.603; 21, P Diniz (Br, Arrows) 1:53.671. **Did not complete:** J Alesi (Fr, Sauber).

Come on you blues, reds, yellows, greens, whites...

Make no mistake about it, Sky Sports are football supporters.

Since the launch of Sky Sports we've been proud to pump over £1 billion into the British game. And that has gone to football at all levels – from the Third Division to the Premiership, from schoolboy internationals to the full England international team.

It has helped improve stadia and the teams who play in them. Clubs are now able to attract major stars such as Ginola, Bergkamp, Overmars, Desailly and Casiraghi and prevent home grown stars from leaving England to play for foreign teams.

Fans have benefited too.

As little as 10 years ago fewer than 20 live league games were broadcast each year. Now you can enjoy over 200 live matches each season including 60 from the FA Premiership. And every Premier League club is shown live at least 3 times each season.

We're proud to be a part of British football. It looks in great shape, and getting better every single day. A little like a striker who, as a 15 year old was first seen live on Sky Sports in an England schoolboy international in 1995.

A striker called Michael Owen.

SKY SPORTS
The home of football

GRAND PRIX 1998: HOW THEY STAND FOR ITALY

WEST McLAREN MERCEDES Position: 1 Points: 125
8. Mika Hakkinen Position: 1 Points: 77 1998 best: 1
7. David Coulthard Position: 3 Points: 48 1998 best: 1

SCUDERIA FERRARI MARLBORO Position: 2 Points: 102
4. Eddie Irvine Position: 4 Points: 32 1998 best: 2
3. Michael Schumacher Position: 2 Points: 70 1998 best: 1

WINFIELD WILLIAMS Position: 3 Points: 33
2. Heinz-Harald Frentzen Position: 9 Points: 13 1998 best: 3
1. Jacques Villeneuve Position: 5 Points: 20 1998 best: 3

BENETTON FORMULA ONE Position: 3 Points: 32
5. Giancarlo Fisichella Position: 8 Points: 15 1998 best: 2
6. Alexander Wurz Position: 6 Points: 17 1998 best: 4

JORDAN MUGEN-HONDA Position: 5 Points: 26
9. Damon Hill Position: 7 Points: 16 1998 best: 1
10. Ralf Schumacher Position: 10 Points: 10 1998 best: 2

SAUBER PETRONAS Position: 6 Points: 8
14. Johnny Herbert Position: 15 Points: 1 1998 best: 6
15. Jean Alesi Position: 11 Points: 7 1998 best: 3

DANKA ARROWS Position: 7 Points: 6
16. Pedro Diniz Position: 14= Points: 3 1998 best: 5
17. Mika Salo Position: 14= Points: 3 1998 best: 4

STEWART FORD Position: 7 Points: 5
18. Rubens Barrichello Position: 12 Points: 4 1998 best: 5
19. Jos Verstappen 1998 best: 12

PROST PEUGEOT Position: 9 Points: 5
11. Olivier Panis 1998 best: 9
12. Jarno Trulli 1998 best: 6

TYRRELL FORD
20. Toranosuke Takagi 1998 best: 9
21. Ricardo Rosset 1998 best: 8

MINARDI TEAM
22. Shinji Nakano 1998 best: 7
23. Esteban Tuero 1998 best: 8

MONZA

THE RACE ON TELEVISION AND RADIO
ITV: Qualifying Today 11.40 Race Tomorrow 12.25pm (live), 11.50pm (highlights)
RADIO: Race live in Sunday Sport on BBC Radio 5 Live

هكذا من الأصل

Opening gambit ignites new hope

FROM ROB HUGHES

CYNICISM begone. Sometimes an opening ceremony on the far side of the world can stir more than a nation, more than a continent, but a whole Commonwealth. If, over the next ten days, the athletes of 70 countries can respond, if only their sport can be as clean and inspired as the rapport between 100,000 Malaysians and their guests in the £72 million stadium here, then the notion of a faded empire and, indeed, that of sports ethics, corrupted by commerce and drugs, could wither before us.

There are 4,280 competitors at the Games and, despite the recession and the ugly in-fighting of Malaysian politics, the concept of the Friendly Games, signalled by the arrival of the Queen's baton, might indeed survive.

It is possible, while you slept last night, that that notion was challenged, for, in the Australia team, bidding for 100 gold medals and for continued domination of the Commonwealth Games, there is Neil Stephens, the 35-year-old cyclist, who, in July, was a member of the Festina team expelled for taking performance-enhancing drugs at the Tour de France. Stephens, claiming he took EPO thinking it was only vitamins, was allowed to compete for the gold medal in this morning's 184-kilometre race, the first final of the 16-sport Games.

And yet we have to renew all hope that these Games will be an oasis in the midst of what is happening to sport in the Nineties. The baton that left Buckingham Palace on March 10 and travelled through such places as Kenya, India, Australia, Canada and new and small islands recently added to the Commonwealth Games is a symbol. So is the ceremonial opening of the Bunga Raya, the hibiscus that is the national flower and motif of Malaysia.

When the king of Malaysia, the Yang Dipertuan Agong and Prince Edward, the most relaxed of the English Royals, who is the president of the Commonwealth Games Federation, formally opened this event, the capacity audience here had shown already the awesome power, the unity, of nationalism. That, expressed through sport, can, of course, be a positive or a frighteningly divisive emotion.

Australia — which, in Victoria, Canada, four years ago claimed 87 gold medals, more than one third of all those available — has demonstrated both the fruits of massive financial commitment and the modern convenience of an immigrant nation, gleefully absorbing athletes from neighbouring countries. Johnny Nguyen, a weightlifter born in Vietnam, is a true and already golden Aussie. When Wales take on New Zealand at rugby in these Games tomorrow, they will face not only Christian Cullen and Jonah Lomu, but also Amasio Valence, a Fijian half back, who is 19 and has been in New Zealand just 19 months.

Between the tropical storms that do their best to clear the oppressive air in Kuala Lumpur, in extraordinary state-of-the-art sporting venues that cost the nation £193 million, the Games that are now beginning will fill 120 hours of BBC television airtime. Almost before we know it, we will move from cricket, from Australia versus Antigua, from Sri Lanka versus Jamaica, to the first competitive rounds of squash, hockey, lawn bowls and boxing.

Malaysia will now struggle to keep up the momentum of what happened in their grand stadium last night. It was by far the biggest gathering in the 68-year history of the Commonwealth Games, but, with money as tight as it is here, the organisers know already that their plan to sell more than £3 million-worth of tickets will not remotely add up.

They have begun distributing tickets to deprived children, to handicapped children, to the orphans in Malaysia's multi-ethnic and widely dispersed community. They will be bussed in to venues, the majority of which occupy one vast site. It has the feel of Seoul during the 1988 Olympic Games and it is an example of how a nation, through the need to identify its potential to the world, can use the acreage of underdeveloped land in a way that none of Britain's leading cities could match.

"Victory comes in many ways," Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian Prime Minister, proclaimed. "It transcends social and ethnic barriers." On the streets throughout the 14 regions of Malaysia, we have seen those barriers dismantled simply by the passing on of the silver baton from the Queen and her Commonwealth.

The joy that was evident even in the sometimes austere policemen, the pride that something exceptional was visiting this once colonial outpost, rose as high as the Petronas towers, at 88 stories the tallest buildings on earth. It is the turn of the athletes now to sustain some of that euphoria and, come 2002, Manchester will have to follow the massive achievement that started in Kuala Lumpur last night.

Size is not everything, nor, as the previous Games in Canada showed, is romance sustainable. There are those who now predict that apathy will take over much of the rest of this occasion. We shall see, but give it the benefit of the doubt.

WILLIAM WEST

Blazer trail: Lomu acknowledges the crowd as the New Zealand team enters the stadium

SCHEDULE

TODAY

SWIMMING: 2.0am: Women's 100m freestyle heats. Men's 100m breaststroke heats. Women's 400m individual medley heats. Men's 200m freestyle heats. Women's 4x200m freestyle relay heats. 5.0am: Synchronised solo technical routine. 6.32pm: Women's 100m freestyle final. Men's 100m breaststroke final. Women's 400m individual medley final. Men's 200m freestyle final. Women's 4x200m freestyle relay final

BADMINTON: 1.0am, 8.0am and 10.0am: Team event preliminaries.

BOXING: 6.0am and 10.30am: Preliminary bouts, various weights.

CRICKET: 2.0am: Sri Lanka v Jamaica. Malaysia v Zimbabwe. Australia v Antigua: Canada v India; Pakistan v Kenya.

CYCLING: 12.30am: Men's 184km road race.

GYMNASTICS: Men's team competition: Group A,B,C.

HOCKEY: Men: 8.05am: South Africa v India. 10.05am: Canada v Pakistan. 11.35am: Trinidad and Tobago v Australia. 12.35pm: Wales v New Zealand. Women: 8.0am: Scotland v Jamaica. Canada v Wales (rescheduled from Thursday). 10.05am: South Africa v England. 11.35am: Australia v Malaysia. 12.35pm: India v Trinidad & Tobago.

LAWN BOWLS: Men: 12.30am, 6.30am, and 11.30am: Fours, Pairs, and Singles. Women: 12.30am, 6.30am, 11.30am: Fours, Pairs, Singles.

RUGBY: 8.0am: Fiji v Wales. 8.20am: South Africa v Papua New Guinea. 8.40am: Western Samoa v Canada. 9.0am: New Zealand v Sri Lanka. 9.20am: England v Tonga. 9.40am: Australia v Cook Islands. 10.0am: Wales v Swaziland. 10.20am: Papua New Guinea v Trinidad and Tobago. 10.40am: Canada v Bahamas. 11.0am: Sri Lanka v Malaysia. 11.20am: Tonga v Kenya. 11.40am: Cook Islands v Cayman Islands. 12.0pm: Swaziland v Fiji. 12.20pm: Trinidad & Tobago v South Africa. 12.40pm: Bahamas v Samoa. 1.0pm: Malaysia v New Zealand. 1.20pm: Kenya v England. 1.40pm: Cayman Islands v Australia.

SQUASH: 1.0am—2.0pm: Men's singles, first round. 1.0am—2.0pm: Women's singles, first round

Rolph ready to shatter antipodean mythology

FROM CRAIG LORD

SUE ROLPH and Karen Pickering hope to hold off an Australian flood of victories for at least the first swimming race of the Commonwealth Games today, the 100 metres freestyle, in which they jointly hold the Commonwealth record.

"The 100 free will get the ball rolling," Rolph said. "I'm supremely confident that no one's going to knock me down."

Rolph, 20, coached by Ian Oliver in Newcastle, has enjoyed her best season this year, twice defeating Jenny Thompson, the Olympic champion, of the United States, and setting two British records at the trials in July, but she will not have things all her own way. Pickering, a former world short-course champion, is a great swimmer for the big occasion and appears to be reaching her peak just in time.

Ian Turner, the England head coach, said that the Australia men would be tough but suggested that his women were a match for their rivals. There are some exceptions, most notably Susan O'Neill, the Olympic and world butterfly champion, and Sam Riley, the former breaststroke world champion.

Perhaps the best hope of English gold among the men rests with James Hickman, of Leeds via Stockport, in the 200 metres butterfly. If the world short-course record-holder improves in a long-course pool, then he will finally break in among the contenders for medals where they count most — at Sydney and the Olympic Games in 2000. Hickman's main rival is likely to be Stephen Parry, of Liverpool, a bronze medal-winner at the European championships last year.

While the 200 metres medley should be a lonely affair for Matthew Dunn, of Australia, Hickman, sporting a much improved breaststroke, courtesy of Terry Denison, the former coach of Adrian Moorhouse, may challenge for the 400 metres medley, with Dunn opting not to compete and Curtis Myden, of Canada, the world championship and Olympic medal-winner, also absent.

Australia won 24 out of Commonwealth 32 titles at Victoria in 1994. A similar statistic is expected this year. Few are expected to keep up with them in the men's freestyle events, in which Australia field the formidable talent of Michael Klim, in the sprints, Ian Thorpe, at middle distance, and Grant Hackett, Kieren Perkins and Daniel Kowalski, over 1,500 metres.

However, watch for Danyon Loader, from New Zealand, the reigning Olympic champion over 200 and 400 metres freestyle, who is just getting back to his best after an unhappy year in the United States.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Britain ready to join the race for world event

■ **ATHLETICS:** GREAT Britain looks likely to enter the running to host the world championships for the first time — at Wembley in 2003 — as part of a Government-backed effort to bring the 2012 Olympic Games to London (David Powell writes). A successful world championships is seen as a key element in any potential bid to host the Olympics.

Athens was awarded the 2004 Olympics after staging the 1997 world championships and, with the 2012 Games venue to be chosen in 2005, the hosting of the biennial world championships in 2003 would be well-timed. A bid is to be formulated by next month, before the International Amateur Athletic Federation meets in November to allocate its world championships for 2001 and 2003.

■ **CYCLING: Giovanni Lombardi, of Italy, had his first victory yesterday in the Tour of Spain, after three second places and a third, when he narrowly won the 190-kilometre seventh stage from Alicante to Valencia from Jeroen Blijlevens, of Holland. The overall positions remained unchanged, with José Maria Jiménez, of Spain, still the race leader ahead of his countryman, Roberto Heras, at 31sec, and Laurent Jalabert, of France, one of the pre-race favourites, a further 3sec behind.**

■ **BOXING:** Billy Schwer has a difficult assignment tonight when he defends his European lightweight title against Manuel Carlos Fernandes, of France, at York Hall, Bethnal Green. It is Schwer's first defence of the title he won from Oscar Cano, of Spain, in October, 1997. Cano stopped Fernandes in 11 rounds to lift the title in March 1997 and then seven months later Schwer beat Cano in ten rounds.

■ **FOOTBALL: Kelly Smith, the England forward who is playing and studying in the United States, will not be available for the vital first-leg match away to Romania in Campina today, which decides whether England will remain in the top tier of European women's football. The return leg takes place at Wycombe Wanderers' ground, Adams Park, on Sunday, October 11.**

ENGLAND SQUAD: P Cope (Croydon), S Reed (Arsenal), C Utley (Doncaster Belles), M Manley (Everton), S Britton (Doncaster Belles), B Easton (Everton), F White (Arsenal), G Coultard (Doncaster Belles), K Burke (Everton), S Williams (Arsenal), O Murphy (Millwall Lionesses), S Smith (Tranmere Rovers), N Daly (Arsenal), J Broadhurst (Croydon), R Yankey (Arsenal), K Walker (Doncaster Belles), K Massey (Stockport County)

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

Today

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v Rothwell; Boston v Salisbury; Burton Albion v Bromsgrove, Crawley v Worcester City; Gloucester v Nuneaton; Grantham v Bath City, Gresley v Ilkeston; Hastings v Halesowen, Kings Lynn v Merthyr, Tamworth v Dorchester, Weymouth v Cambridge City. Southern division: Ashford v Rye; Bashley v St Leonards, Brackley Town v Newport IOW, Cirencester Town v Tonbridge Angels; Corby v Margate, Dartford v Raunds T, Erith and Belvedere v Witney; Fisher London v Andover; Folkestone Invicta v Chelmsford, Havant and Waterlooville v Baldock, Stringbourne v Yate. Midland division: Bedworth v Sutton Coldfield Town; Blowich Town v Stourbridge; Evesham v Blakenall; Hinckley Utd v Cinderford; Moor Green v Wisbech Town, Paget R v Newport AFC, RC Warwick v Bilston; Shepshed D v Clevedon, Solihull Boro v Stafford; Stamford AFC v Weston-super-Mare; VS Rugby v Redditch

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington Stanley v Hyde, Bamber Bridge v Blyth Spartans, Emley v Lancaster; Frickley v Chorley; Gainsborough v Marine, Runcorn v Guiseley, Spennymoor v Colwyn Bay; Stalybridge v Gateshead; Whitby v Leigh RMI; Winsford v Bishop Auckland, Worksop v Altrincham. First division: Ashton United v Hucknall Town; Belper Town v Burscough; Eastwood Town v Great Harwood; Farsley Celtic v Alfreton S C, Grema v Congleton, Matlock Town v Droylsden; Netherfield Kendal v Bradford PA Ave; Radcliffe v Harrogate Town; Stocksbridge PS v Flixton; Trafford v Whitley Bay; Albion v Lincoln United.

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Aldershot Town v Dagenham and Redbridge; Billericay v Walton and Hersham; Boreham Wood v Purfleet, Carshalton v Hampton; Dulwich Hamlet v Bishop's Stortford, Enfield v Gravesend and Northfleet; Harrow Borough v Sutton United, Hendon v Bromley; Heybridge Swifts v Chesham, Slough v Aylesbury, St Albans v Basingstoke. First division: Bognor Regis v Hitchin, Braintree v Berkhamsted; Chertsey v Uxbridge, Grays v Yeading, Maidenhead v Barton Rovers, Molesey v Wealdstone, Oxford City v Canvey Island; Romford v Leatherhead; Staines v Whyteleafe, Wembley v Croydon; Worthing v Leyton Pennant. Second division: Banstead v Leighton Town; Barking v Chalfont St Peter; Bracknell v Harlow; Edgware v Witham; H Hempstead v Northwood, Hertford v Bedford T, Horsham v Met Police, Tooting and Mitcham v Windsor and Eton; Wokingham v Abingdon Town. Third division: Camberley Town v Dorking; Cheshunt v Egham; Clapton v Tring; Corinthian-Casuals v Ware, Ford Utd v Aveley, Hornchurch v Wingate & Finchley; Lewes v Flackwell Heath; Southall v Tilbury.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: Midland Conference: Chesterfield v Birmingham (11.0); Mansfield v Stoke (11.0); Port Vale v Lincoln City (11.0); Walsall v Wolverhampton (11.0); West Brom v Shrewsbury (11.0). North West Conference: Blackpool v Burnley (11.0); Carlisle Utd v Rochdale (11.0); Chester v Bury (11.0); Oldham v Tranmere (11.0); Stockport v Wrexham (11.0); Wigan v Preston (11.0). North East Conference: Darlington v Scunthorpe (11.30); Grimsby v Bradford (11.0), Huddersfield v Shell Utd (11.0); Hull v Hartlepool (11.0); Rotherham v Halifax (11.0); Scarborough v York (11.0)

LEAGUE OF WALES: Caersws v Rhyl (2.30); Connah's Quay v Barry (2.30); Conwy v Carmarthen Town (2.30); Cwmbran v Aberystwyth (2.30); Haverfordwest v Newtown (2.30), Inter Cable-Tel v Aber Utd (2.30); Rhayader Town v Holywell (2.30); TNS v Bangor City (2.30).

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Cliftonville v Glenavon; Coleraine v Newry; Glentoran v Ballymena; Omagh v Linfield; Portadown v Crusaders.

ULSTER FIRST DIVISION CUP: First round, first leg: Ballydare v Carrick; Distillery v Limavady Utd; Dungannon Swifts v Ards; Larne v Bangor.

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier Division: Almondsbury v Banbury; Carterton v Hallen; Didcot v Cirencester Academy; Fairford v Swindon Supermarine; Kintbury v EFC Cheltenham; Tuffley v Bicester; Wantage v Shortwood.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Bedlington Terriers v Penrith; Billingham Town v Chester-le-Street; Morpeth v Guisborough; Seaham Red Star v Billingham; South Shields v Easington; Stockton v West Auckland

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Premier League: Deal v Tunbridge Wells; Faversham v Chatham; Herne Bay v Canterbury; Hythe v Whitstable Town; Ramsgate v Erith.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Badewell v Bideford; Bishop Sutton v Odd Down; Bridport v Barnstaple, Bristol Manor Farm v Tiverton; Calne v Yeovil TR, Keynsham v Chippenham; Mangotsfield Utd v Bridgewater, Melksham v Paulton R; Westbury v Taunton.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Brentford v Brighton (11.0), Bristol Rovers v Barnet (11.0), Cambridge Utd v Gillingham (11.0); Colchester Utd v Wycombe (11.0); Luton v Reading (11.0); Portsmouth v Leyton Orient (11.30); Southend Utd v Bournemouth (11.0); Swindon v Oxford Utd (11.0).

HIGHLAND FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Brora v Fraserburgh; Buckie Thistle v Keith; Clachnacuddin v Deveronvale, Fort William v Cove; Huntly v Forres Mechanics; Lossiemouth v Wick Academy.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bedfont v Netherne; Chessington and Hook v AFC Wallingford, Cobham v Hartley Wintney; Cove v Ashford; Feltham v Cranleigh; Reading Town v Chipstead; Sandhurst v Raynes Park Vale, Walton Casuals v Farnham, Westfield v Ash.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bury Town v Sudbury Wanderers, Diss v Newmarket; Great Yarmouth v Soham; Halstead v Warboys; Harwich and Parkeston v Gorleston; Histon v Felixstowe Port and; Woodbridge Town v Maldon; Wroxham v Ipswich.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Bemerton Heath v BAT, Brockenhurst v Christchurch; Cowes Sports v Totton; Gosport v Hamble Club; Lymington and New Milton v Money Fields; Whitchurch v Bournemouth; Wimborne v Thatcham Town

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Broadbridge Heath v Selsey; Langney Sports v Horsham; M C A Littlehampton v Eastbourne, Ringmer v East Preston; Saltdean v Wick; Shoreham v Portfield. John O'Hara League Cup: Second round: Crawley Down Village v Hailsham; Crowborough v Hassocks; East Grinstead v Chichester; Storrington v Pagham.

FA CARLSBERG VASE: First qualifying round: Bedford v Ruislip Manor; Blackfield and Langley v Eastleigh; Boston Town v Handrahan Timbers; Brimsdown v Southend Manor, Buckingham Athletic v Viking Sports; Cockfosters v Stowmarket; Cray v Abingdon; Downes Sports v Stourport S; Downham v East Thurrock; East Cowes v Hungerford, Fareham v Lancing; Glasshoughton Welfare v Maltby Main; Goole v Fleetwood Freeport; Greenwich v Beckenham; Harrow Hill v Pershore T; Highfield v Barrow Town; Highworth v Brislington; Islington St Marys v Burnham; Kempston v Hullbridge Sports; Kingsbury v Milton Keynes; Kirby Muxloe v Stafford T, Liversedge v Chadderton; Lordswood v Newbury AFC; Ludlow T v Nottingham; Malvern T v Bilston Community College; Marske v Shildon; Middlemoor Sports v Kings Norton, Mildenhall v Toddington; Newcastle Blue Star v Ossett Town; Parkgate v Shotton Comrades; Rechill v Whitehawk; Sawbridgeworth v Wivenhoe; Sheffield v Consett; Slade Green v Merstham; Street v Frome; Studley Bkl v Kington Town; Truro v Willand.

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Bridgnorth v Boldmere St M; Oldbury v Barwell, Rocester v Halesowen H; Rushall O v Stapenhill; Sandwell v Knypersley V; Stratford T v Chasetown; Wednesfield v Shifnal T; W Mid Police v Willenhall.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Buxton v Eccleshill; North Ferriby v Arnold Town; Pickering v Ossett Albion; Pontefract Cols v Armthorpe Welfare; Selby v Garforth; Staveley MW v Brigg Town; Thackley v Denaby.

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: Division one: Atherton Collieries v Salford; Atherton LR v Leek CSOB; Cheadle v St Helens, Glossop North End v Clitheroe, Holker Old Boys v Bootle; Maine Road v Nantwich Town; Mossley v Kidsgrove; Prescot Cables v Workington; Rossendale v Skelmersdale, Vauxhall G M v Ramsbottom.

CRICKET

Britannic Assurance county championship

10.30, final day of four, 96 overs minimum

CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham v Surrey

CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Derbyshire

CANTERBURY: Kent v Somerset

WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Hampshire

HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire v Warwickshire

10.30, second day of four, 104 overs minimum

TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Lancashire

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Third day of four: Hove: Sussex v Nottinghamshire. Final day of three: Derby: Derbyshire v Northamptonshire. Southampton: Hampshire v Lancashire Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Yorkshire.

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Allied Dunbar Premiership One

London Scottish v Leicester, Newcastle v Bath (2.15), Northampton v Harlequins, Richmond v Gloucester, Sale v Bedford

Premiership Two

Bristol v Fylde, Coventry v Waterloo, Moseley v Leeds, Orrell v Rugby, Rotherham v Exeter, Wakefield v Worcester

Jewson National League

First division

Birmingham/Solihull v Otley, Harrogate v Morley, Liverpool St Helens v Lydney, Manchester v Camberley, Nottingham v Newbury, Rosslyn Park v Reading, Wharfedale v Henley

Second division north

Aspatria v Sandal, Kendal v New Brighton, Lichfield v Preston Grasshoppers, Sedgley Park v Nuneaton, Sheffield v Stourbridge, Whitchurch v Hinckley, Winnington Park v Walsall

Second division south

Bracknell v Barking, Cheltenham v North Walsham, Norwich v Bridgwater, Plymouth v Havant, Redruth v Clifton, Tabard v Met Police, Weston-S-Mare v Esher

Anglo-Welsh club match

Cardiff v Saracens (2.30)

Welsh National League

Premier division

Caerphilly v Llanelli (2.30), Ebbw Vale v Newport (2.30), Neath v Bridgend (2.30), Pontypridd v Aberavon (2.30)

First division

Abertillery v Maesteg (2.30), Blackwood v South Wales Police (2.30), Dunvant v Merthyr (2.30), Llandovery v UWIC (Cardiff Inst) (2.30), Pontypool v Cross Keys (2.30), Rumney v Newbridge (2.30), Tredegar v Bonymaen (2.30), Treorchy v Tondu (2.30)

Tennent's Velvet Premiership

First division

Boroughmuir v Stirling County, Hawick v Glasgow Hawks, Heriots FP v Jed-Forest, Melrose v Currie, West of Scotland v Watsonians

Second division

Aberdeen GSFP v Dundee HSFP, Biggar v Gala, Kelso v Edinburgh Acads, Kirkcaldy v Selkirk, Musselburgh v Kilmarnock

Third division

Ayr v Glenrothes, Berwick v Gordonians, East Kilbride v Glasgow Southern, Grangemouth v Preston Lodge, Stewarts Mel FP v Peebles

Guinness Inter-provincial championship

Munster v Connacht (at Limerick, 2.30)

OTHER SPORT

GOLF: British Masters (in Coventry)

BOXING: European lightweight title: B Schwer (Luton) v M Fernandez (Fr) (at York Hall, Bethnal Green)

EQUESTRIANISM: Blenheim Three Day event (in Oxfordshire).

HOCKEY: Scottish League: Dundee W v MIM; Gordonians v Inverleith; Grange v Menzieshill; Western v Clydesdale

ICE HOCKEY: Benson & Hedges Cup: Group A: Ayr Scottish Eagles v Newcastle Cobras; Cardiff Devils v Bracknell Bees. Group B: London Knights v Manchester Storm, Nottingham Panthers v Sheffield Steelers. Group C: Fife Flyers v Paisley Pirates, Telford Tigers v Edinburgh. Group D: Kingston Hawks v Peterborough, Slough Jets v Guildford Flames

MOTOR RACING: British Touring Car championship (at Oulton Park).

SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Coventry v Eastbourne (7.30) Premier League: Berwick v Peterborough (7.0); Newport v Sheffield (2.30). Dunlop Conference League: Mildenhall v Norfolk (7.30)

Tomorrow

FOOTBALL

FA CARLSBERG VASE: First qualifying round: Sheppey v Erith (3.0).

CRICKET

Britannic Assurance county championship

10.30, third day of four, 104 overs minimum

TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Lancashire

Axa League

1.0, 40 overs

CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham v Surrey

CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Derbyshire

CANTERBURY: Kent v Somerset

LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Essex

LORD'S: Middlesex v Gloucestershire

NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Sussex

WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Hampshire

HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire v Warwickshire

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Final day of four: Hove: Sussex v Nottinghamshire

RUGBY UNION

Allied Dunbar Premiership One

West Hartlepool v London Irish (3.0)

Premiership Two

Blackheath v London Welsh (3.0)

Anglo-Welsh club match

Wasps v Swansea (3.0)

Tennent's Velvet Tri-Series

Edinburgh Reivers v Glasgow Cat (at Easter Road, 3.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB Super League

Bradford v Warrington (6.0), Huddersfield v Leeds (3.30), Salford v Wigan (6.35), St Helens v Castleford (3.0)

First division

Grand Final Series

Play-offs

Dewsbury v Featherstone (1.30), Wakefield v Hull KR (3.30)

OTHER SPORT

EQUESTRIANISM: Blenheim three day event (at Oxfordshire).

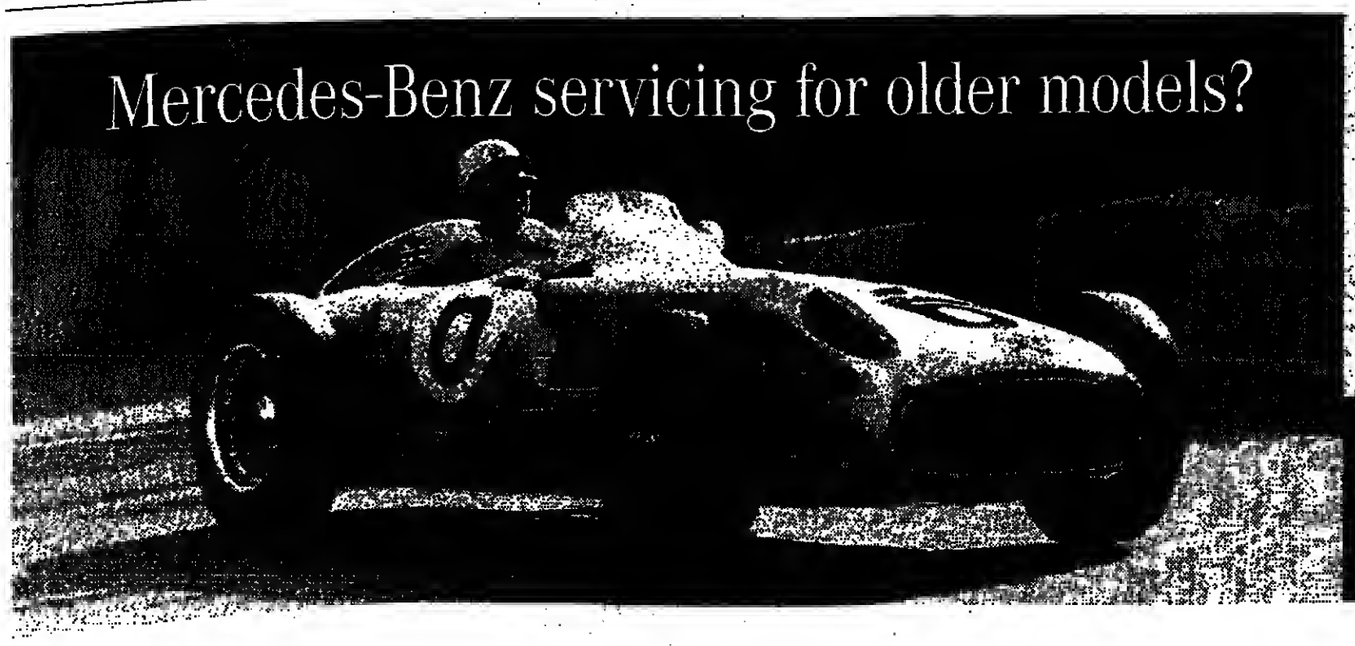
GOLF: British Masters (in Coventry).

ICE HOCKEY: Benson & Hedges Cup: Group A: Bracknell Bees v Cardiff Devils, Newcastle Cobras v Ayr Scottish Eagles. Group B: Manchester Storm v London Knights; Sheffield Steelers v Nottingham Panthers. Group C: Edinburgh v Paisley Pirates. Group D: Kingston Hawks v Guildford Flames; Peterborough v Slough Jets

MOTOR RACING: British Touring Car championship (at Oulton Park).

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Riders' Championship Final (at Sheffield, 3.0). Dunlop Conference League: Buxton v St Austell (3.0).

Mercedes-Benz servicing for older models?



A Mercedes will last a lifetime. But only if it's properly cared for. And that's easier than ever, now that your Mercedes-Benz dealer is offering low parts prices and fixed cost servicing for older Mercedes models.

So you get great value for money on genuine parts and servicing from fully trained staff. Without having to shop around. How do you find your nearest dealer? Simple. Just call. That's all.

Just call. That's all.
0800 665460

The cat's whiskers, Sprite

Stewart steers Lloyd away from standing down

Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, describes moves behind the scenes that prevented the resignation of the England coach

Alec Stewart made a series of urgent phone calls last week to prevent the collapse of the management structure behind his England cricket team. Stewart's intervention helped to convince David Lloyd, the coach, to pull back from the resignation that would have caused untold disruption to England's Ashes prospects this winter.

Lloyd's dalliance with the idea of ending a miserable week by standing down, after his reprimand by the England and Wales Cricket Board for public comments about Muttiah Muralitharan's action, was over-emotional. That it was also genuine, though, created alarm and orchestrated action within his own circle.

Stewart, one summer into the captaincy that he inherited from Michael Atherton, spoke to various senior players and then to Lloyd himself. "I phoned him two or three times and he was pretty depressed. I told him I was talking on behalf of all the players and that he had our full support. I hope it helped."

Stewart has his own views on the inflated events that followed Lloyd's untimely remarks, views that might have been voiced if Lloyd had been sacrificed, or chosen to go. The ECB, by using the public stick without the private carrot, was risking a damaging uprising around the national team.

Instead, Stewart can look ahead to the winter with renewed optimism after the days of high anxiety in which a Test match was lost badly and a coach almost lost carelessly. "I think we've made progress this year," Stewart said, "and a lot of the credit goes to the coach. People may just see 'Bumble' sitting on the balcony during games and have no idea what he does. He has made us more and more professional through his ideas and input. He leaves absolutely nothing to chance.

"Confidence has improved out of all recognition. We've beaten a good side this summer, in South Africa, and we did it by outfighting them over the last two games. That's something we haven't often done before. When it got tough, we came out on top in the hard sessions. We'll need to do that in Australia, time after time."

England's injury worries for the winter should be eased a little tomorrow, when Graham Thorpe makes his comeback for Surrey, but Nasser Hussain has had a hernia operation and Atherton's back problems are an ongoing concern. Stewart admits to anxiety in this area, but he remains positive about healing the scars of successive surrenders to Australia.

"I'm a great believer that the good cricket teams know how to win and the moderate ones know only how to lose. Australia are winners by habit and that's what we are seeking to be. On this tour, I want us to be a unit the whole time, on and off the field. Togetherness gives a team strength of purpose."

Bold words from a man who surely feels like nothing more vigorous than putting his feet up. It has already been a demanding year for the England team and specifically for the ubiquitous Stewart. He almost admits to a twinge of fatigue, which is quite something from him.

"I'm glad Surrey are still involved in the championship and I've got something to play for, or I would be feeling really tired. Doing three jobs for England has not been a problem yet, but I'm glad the selectors talked me into batting at No 4, when I was keen to bat at No 3."

Stewart, like many others on the international cricket circuit, is weary of being asked where he will go on holiday when the season ends. "Going away is the last thing you want to do. I've been marking out my diary this week and I've blocked off three weeks in which I'll just crash out at home."

Before that, he has an opinion to express on the structure of domestic cricket, due for debate by the counties again next month, and it is not a cosy one. "I would be more radical than most, because I believe we need to reduce the number of counties by at least four and maybe six," he said.

"It would mean an amalgamation of certain existing clubs and I'm aware those concerned would not vote for it. But I'm not personally convinced by the two-division argument and feel it would be preferable to keep the championship in its current form but with fewer teams.

"Whatever county members may feel, my view is that the championship exists primarily to produce international cricketers and it is not serving that purpose well enough. The step up from domestic to international cricket is huge in England, far bigger than in Australia and South Africa.

"We've got to narrow that gap and, apart from changing the programme, we must change the pitches we play on. Counties are still getting away with exploiting home advantage too much and I feel every pitch should be judged on the strict criteria of whether a Test match could be played on it. If not, it's below standard."

Britannic Assurance Championship: Seam bowlers carry Gloucestershire to victory

Gatting departs as Middlesex stumble and fall

By Jack Bailey

LORD'S (third day of four): Gloucestershire (21pts) beat Middlesex (4) by 96 runs

A SHADOW-dappled Lord's was a wonderful sight at 2.45pm yesterday on the third day of a four-day match. There was a drawback, however. The players were trooping off the ground, the match was over, Middlesex had slumped to their fourth consecutive defeat — their first such sequence since 1986 — and, needing to score 169 for victory, had been bowled out for a paltry 72.

Walsh, Smith and Lewis, of Gloucestershire, were well suited by a pitch of uneven bounce, which had favoured seam bowling throughout, yet Middlesex, handicapped though they were by afflictions to Gatting and Ramprakash, surrendered with scarcely a shot fired in anger. It must have hurt all those loyal Middlesex supporters who saw it.

What was most galling for them, on a day that saw 16 wickets fall for 111 runs in fewer than 58 overs, was that Middlesex appeared to have bowled themselves into a favourable position shortly after the day began. Angus Fraser, revelling in the conditions, had a spell of five wickets for eight runs from 27 balls as Gloucestershire lost their six remaining wickets for the addition of only 39. Ball had dominated bat throughout this match, but surely now was the time for heroic deeds.

Heroic deeds there were, in as much as Ramprakash, suffering from tonsilitis, and Gatting, with a damaged elbow, came in to bat at No 6 and No 7 respectively. Officially, this was Gatting's last first-class game at Lord's and the crowd willed him to do well.

Like their predecesors, though, neither he nor Ramprakash could withstand the hostility of the Gloucestershire attack for any length of time. Gatting lasted only two balls before Walsh had him leg-before and he walked back to the pavilion amid a standing ovation.

Ramprakash, as is often the case, looked unhappily surprised to be given out, this time caught behind off Lewis. With his dismissal, Middlesex were 53 for seven and their last chance of salvaging anything from this match disappeared with him.

Not that the sad case of Middlesex should in any way detract from Gloucestershire's surge to victory. They needed to bowl and field better than they batted and they did just that, never doubting themselves for a moment. Once again, Walsh oozed menace; Smith ripped out the Middlesex heart with a spell of three wickets for no runs as he accounted for Weekes, Brown and Kettlebrough in the space of six balls.

Like Smith, Walsh captured eight wickets in the match. It brought his tally in this season's championship to 97. There was little in it between him and Caddick, of Somerset, in the race to a 100 first-class victims.

More important than individual achievements, however, is the Gloucestershire team effort. It has taken them to the higher reaches of a championship, the winning of which is now beyond them, but remains tantalisingly just out of view. Good seam bowling requires sharp catching close to the wicket to sustain it and, once again, Gloucestershire excelled beyond reasonable expectation.

TOP OF TABLE

	P	W	L	D	Bt	Bl	Pts
Lancs	16	10	0	6	43	47	268
Gloucs	16	10	5	1	20	61	244
Surrey	15	9	4	2	38	55	243
Lancs	15	9	1	5	30	49	238
Yorks	15	7	3	5	45	59	231

includes points from matches in progress

Caddick wins race to century of wickets

By John Stern

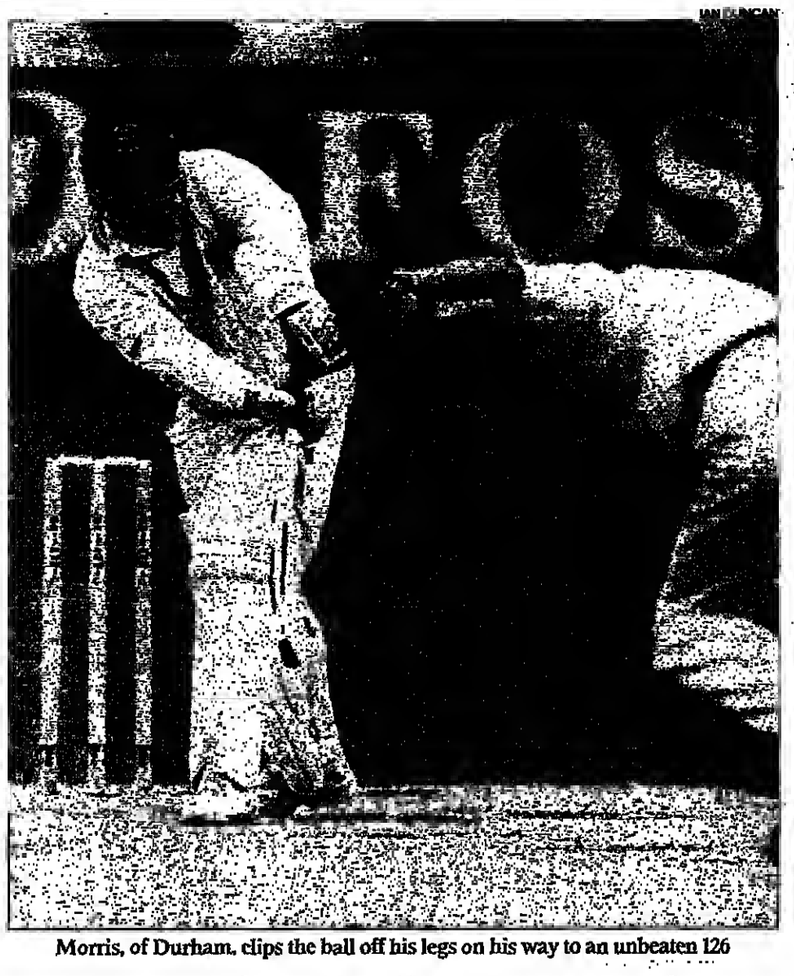
CANTERBURY (third day of four): Somerset (23pts) beat Kent (4) by an innings and 46 runs

THE fact that Carl Hooper was lacking mobility and, apparently, interest as well will be of no concern to Andrew Caddick, whose dismissal of Kent's West Indies batsman was his hundredth in first-class cricket this season.

Making the ball swing and bounce all day, Caddick took five for 40 in Kent's capitulation to 86 all out and then five more when they followed on. While the Kent second innings was an improvement, it was still insufficient.

Kent were following on before lunch and Fulton was caught behind for a duck off the fourth ball of the innings. Key batted maturely for 56 but was undone by an absolute corker as he aimed towards mid-wicket.

Walker's tame pull to backward square gave Caddick No 99 and then Hooper drove to Burns in the gully.



Morris, of Durham, clips the ball off his legs on his way to an unbeaten 126

Rain reduces Surrey options

By Richard Hobson

CHESTER-LE-STREET (third day of four): Durham, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 92 runs behind Surrey

UNTIL recently, Surrey felt confident that the final day of the season would be the occasion of their coronation. At Chester-le-Street yesterday, the body language was that of a side whose chance of winning the Britannic Assurance county championship for the first time since 1971 has come and gone.

Their prospects appear to depend now on the weather in the North East today — the forecast was for unsettled spells — and on the generosity of David Boon, the Durham captain, in contriving a positive outcome to a game that has been badly dislocated by heavy showers. Durham require one more point to guarantee the highest championship finish in the county's brief history, with Boon holding a strong hand.

Leicestershire's emphatic defeat of Essex yesterday means that Surrey, 25 points behind the leaders, must secure victory today, whatever the gamble.

Durham, however, will resume their first innings on 231 for three, having taken advantage of some wayward Surrey bowling and sloppy fielding in the past two days. John Morris drove with the swagger of old in completing a third hundred of the season. He is 126 not out with 18 fours and two sixes; the next-highest contribution is Daley's unbeaten 18.

Saggers edged the erratic Ben Hollioake to Batty and Roseberry chopped on to his stumps, but a total of 38 no balls reflects considerable indiscipline from the Surrey bowlers. Rather surprisingly, Saqlain Mustaq, in his final game of the season, did not bowl before lunch and, with rain ending play before 2pm he had precious little opportunity thereafter.

Title may beckon as Essex subside

By Alan Lee

LEICESTER (third day of four): Leicestershire (24pts) beat Essex (4) by an innings and 99 runs

BONUS points alone could be enough to secure the Britannic Assurance county championship for Leicestershire in their final match at the Oval next week after this contemptuous victory with more than five sessions to spare. An improbable last-wicket stand of 102 could put no more than a veneer of respectability on a shocking collapse by Essex.

If neither Surrey nor Lancashire win in this penultimate round, Leicestershire will take a minimum advantage of 19 points into the last game. Even if the gap is reduced, Leicestershire have the title in their sights, especially as Surrey will be without Saqlain Mushtaq next week.

Essex lost five of their remaining six wickets inside the first hour yesterday. Three of them fell within the first three overs, leaving the team confronting one of their worst defeats of modern times. When Chris Lewis, whose bowling veered from erratic to unplayable, dismissed Grayson and Grove in a single over, Essex were 99 for nine, their only plausible ambition to avoid being bowled out a second time for fewer than 100.

However, Ashley Cowan was playing a different game to his sacrificial team-mates. For 71 minutes, Leicestershire were made to wait as Cowan batted with exuberance, gallantly aided by Peter Such.

Such, whose batting is sturdier than in his days with Leicestershire, was casually put down at slip by Simmons, when 11, and Cowan was dropped by Wells nine runs later. Both misses were off Lewis, but Millns restored order when Cowan, who had just carved him for six to reach a career-best 94 from 81 balls, was caught behind.

Victory is followed by turn for the worse

By Thrasy Petropoulos

NORTHAMPTON (third day of four): Northamptonshire (20pts) beat Sussex (4) by 136 runs

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE were left to count the cost yesterday of a blatant attempt to influence the outcome of their Britannic Assurance county championship match against Sussex by preparing a sub-standard pitch that would favour their spinners. They have received a 25-point penalty, the most severe sanction possible, from the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), which more than negates the 20 points that they gained through victory.

A statement from Mike Denness, the chairman of the ECB Pitches Advisory Group and a member of the investigating panel, said: "The pitch in question displayed uneven bounce and turned excessively early in the match. This should come as no surprise to Northamptonshire CCC as the same strip had been marked "poor" by the umpires when it was used for the Axa League match against Kent.

"In the nine days after the Axa League match, there had been no re-preparation of the pitch and no watering or rolling had taken place. In the panel's view, there was therefore never any prospect of the pitch being up to the desired standard."

Steve Coverdale, the Northamptonshire chief executive, said that the club would be making no statement until after a committee meeting on Monday night. By playing three spinners, Northamptonshire had indicated that they fully expected the pitch to take spin and John Emburey, the head coach, is known to have requested such a surface.

Graeme Swann, the off spinner, took five for 29 as Northamptonshire wrapped up victory by 136 runs. Through their points deduction, however, only Essex are now below them in the table.

Tolley topples Lancashire

By Michael Henderson

TRENT BRIDGE (first day of four: Nottinghamshire won toss): Nottinghamshire, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 157 runs behind Lancashire

LANCASHIRE did not look much like championship chasers yesterday. On a day of abject batting, they were dismissed for 218, scraping together one bonus point, before they added another by taking four Nottinghamshire wickets before the close. Unless the weather intervenes, this match will not reach Monday.

After an opening stand of 64 between Crawley and Chilton, Lancashire were undermined by the left-arm swing bowling of Tolley and their own feebleness. But for an innings of 88 by Fairbrother, they would not have gained a batting point.

Tolley took six wickets and Archer held four slip catches as Lancashire collapsed from 147 for three to 218 all out. Apart from Fairbrother, only Crawley, with 44, left much of an impression.

At one stage, Nottinghamshire were 17 for three. When bad light stopped play, they had made a partial recovery for the additional loss of Johnson. Lancashire can still win this game — and they will have to if they are to take their challenge into the final game of the season.

Yorkshire poised to reap reward

HEADINGLEY (third day of four): Warwickshire, with three second-innings wickets in hand, need 134 runs to avoid an innings defeat against Yorkshire

YORKSHIRE may have left it too late to win the Britannic Assurance county championship this season, but it will not be much longer before they win their first title since 1968 if the most meaningful contributions to this demolition of Warwickshire are any guide (Pat Gibson writes).

Matthew Wood, 21, hit an unbeaten 200 out of a total of 408 for six declared to enable them to push for victory by an innings and Paul Hutchison hastened the possibility by taking six for 25 as Warwickshire were routed for 84, their lowest total for ten years. Gavin Hamilton, Matthew Hoggard and James Middlebrook then picked up timely wickets to take them to the brink of their fourth successive victory.

Warwickshire had no answer to Hutchison's left-arm swing either, losing their last seven wickets for 27 inside ten overs. Knight salvaged some pride with his fourth hundred of the summer when they followed on 324 behind, but they had subsided to 190 for seven by the time that Harold Bird, the umpire, took them off for bad light, possibly for the last time in his career.

Weston rallies Worcestershire

WORCESTER (third day of four): Worcestershire, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are 178 runs ahead of Hampshire

WORCESTERSHIRE'S batting this season has been considered sufficiently irresolute for the club to sign Paul Pollard, the Nottinghamshire batsman, who has not scored a championship century for four seasons, on a two-year contract (Ivo Tennant writes). As if mindful of the heightened competition for opening places, Philip Westoo made the first half-century of the match, giving his side a significant lead over Hampshire.

Earlier, Gavin Haynes returned career-best figures of six for 50. Of these wickets, three were taken in six balls, including that of Stephenson, Hampshire's top scorer. On this slow pitch, Haynes moved the ball around at a quickish medium, gaining three leg-before dismissals and accounting for the tail.

That no batsman reached a half-century until Weston did so in the final session of this, the third day, showed how difficult a task run-gathering had become. His height and reach benefited him as Worcestershire gained a 178-run lead that, weather permitting, gives them an excellent chance of being victorious today.

YESTERDAY'S BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP SCOREBOARDS

Durham v Surrey

CHESTER-LE-STREET (third day of four) Durham, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 92 runs behind Surrey

SURREY: First Innings 323 (A J Hollioake 67, A D Brown 51; J Wood 4 for 87)

DURHAM: First Innings
J J B Lewis c Batty b Benjamin .. 13
J E Morris not out .. 126
M A Roseberry b Butcher .. 8
M J Saggers c Batty b B C Hollioake .. 10
J A Daley not out .. 18
Extras (b 12, lb 8, w 2, nb 34) .. 56
Total (3 wkts, 63 overs) .. 231

*D C Boon, P D Collingwood, †M P Speight, N C Phillips, J Wood and S J Harmison to bat

FALL OF WICKETS 1-51, 2-129, 3-169

BOWLING Bicknell 20-6-54-0; B C Hollioake 10-2-45-1; Saqlain Mushtaq 4-1-12-0; Benjamin 10-1-46-1; A J Hollioake 7-3-18-0; Butcher 12-3-36-1

Bonus points: Durham 5 Surrey 4

Umpires: D J Constant and G Sharp

Glamorgan v Derbyshire

CARDIFF (third day of four). Derbyshire, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 85 runs ahead of Glamorgan

GLAMORGAN: First Innings 114

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings
M J Slater lbw b Parkin .. 14
A S Rollins c Evans b Parkin .. 9
M R May c Maynard b Watkin .. 3
M E Cassar c Maynard b Watkin .. 4
8 L Spendlove lbw b Dale .. 19
K J Barnett not out .. 75
*O G Cork not out .. 64
Extras (b 4, lb 7) .. 11
Total (5 wkts, 65.1 overs) .. 199

†K M Krikken, I D Blackwell, K J Dean and T M Smith to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-17, 2-26, 3-26, 4-32, 5-64

BOWLING Watkin 18.1-3-43-2; Parkin 17-5-44-2; Dale 13-2-40-1; Thomas 12-1-48-0; Cosker 5-1-13-0.

Bonus points: Glamorgan 2 Derbyshire 4

Umpires: B Leadbeater and J W Lloyds.

Kent v Somerset

CANTERBURY (third day of four) Somerset (23pts) beat Kent (4) by an innings and 46 runs

SOMERSET: First Innings 342 (M N Lathwell 106, M Burns 69, R J Turner 51, O W Headley 6 for 97)

KENT: First Innings
O P Fulton c Holloway b van Troost .. 5
R W T Key c Lathwell b Caddick .. 5
B J Phillips c Lathwell b van Troost .. 4
E T Smith lbw b Caddick .. 0
A P Wells b Caddick .. 0
M J Walker b van Troost .. 11
C L Hooper lbw b van Troost .. 8
M V Fleming not out .. 25
*†S A Marsh b Caddick .. 0
D W Headley b Caddick .. 0
M M Patel c Trescothick b Bulbeck .. 8
Extras (lb 8, nb 12) .. 20
Total (27.4 overs) .. 86

FALL OF WICKETS 1-9, 2-21, 3-26, 4-26, 5-29, 6-37, 7-48, 8-57, 9-61.

BOWLING: Caddick 14-3-40-5, van Troost 11-5-18-4, Bulbeck 2 4-0-20-1.

Second Innings
D P Fulton c Turner b Caddick .. 0
R W T Key b Caddick .. 56
E T Smith c Pierson b Rose .. 34
A P Wells lbw b Bulbeck .. 3
M J Walker c Holloway b Caddick .. 39
C L Hooper c Burns b Caddick .. 14
M V Fleming c Burns b van Troost .. 1
*†S A Marsh c Turner b Caddick .. 27
B J Phillips c Bowler b van Troost .. 2
D W Headley c Burns b Rose .. 7
M M Patel not out .. 6
Extras (lb 11, w 2, nb 8) .. 21
Total .. 210

FALL OF WICKETS 1-0, 2-70, 3-83, 4-141, 5-160, 6-167, 7-167, 8-178, 9-200

BOWLING Caddick 23 5-4-61-5, Rose 13-4-36-2, van Troost 16-3-74-2; Bulbeck 6-0-28-1

Umpires: J H Hampshire and M J Kitchen

Leicestershire v Essex

LEICESTER (third day of four): Leicestershire (24pts) beat Essex (4) by an innings and 99 runs

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings 395 (V J Wells 171, P V Simmons 61)

ESSEX: First Innings 95

Second Innings
*P J Prichard b Lewis .. 1
S D Peters c Lewis b Millns .. 8
T P Hodgson c Nixon b Lewis .. 14
S G Law c Maddy b Millns .. 0
R C Irani c Simmons b Crowe .. 27
M C Ilott c Maddy b Mullally .. 2
A P Grayson lbw b Lewis .. 6
†B J Hyam b Mullally .. 0
A P Cowan c Nixon b Millns .. 94
J O Grove b Lewis .. 0
P M Such not out .. 24
Extras (b 2, lb 11, nb 12) .. 25
Total .. 201

FALL OF WICKETS 1-1, 2-23, 3-25, 4-56, 5-61, 6-65, 7-65, 8-97, 9-99.

BOWLING. Mullally 15-2-45-2; Lewis 20-5-72-4. Millns 10.3-1-62-3; Wells 4-3-1-0; Crowe 5-3-5-1; Simmons 4-3-3-0

Umpires J W Holder and A A Jones.

Middx v Gloucs

LORD'S (third day of four). Gloucestershire (21pts) beat Middlesex (4) by 96 runs

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings 238 (M C J Ball 67 not out, R L Johnson 4 for 56)

Second Innings
R J Cunliffe lbw b Johnson .. 4
T H C Hancock lbw b Fraser .. 15
D R Hewson c Weekes b Johnson .. 0
*M W Alleyne lbw b Fraser .. 37
J Lewis lbw b Hewitt .. 4
A M Smith c sub b Fraser .. 39
M G N Windows c Weekes b Fraser .. 3
R I Dawson b Hewitt .. 2
†R C Russell c Strauss b Fraser .. 3
M C J Ball b Fraser .. 0
C A Walsh not out .. 0
Extras (lb 1) .. 1
Total .. 88

FALL OF WICKETS 1-17, 2-19, 3-22, 4-37, 5-58, 6-78, 7-83, 8-87, 9-87.

BOWLING. Fraser 13 2-4-23-6; Hewitt 7-3-14-2, Johnson 8-0-50-2.

MIDDLESEX: First Innings 158 (A M Smith 5 for 40, C A Walsh 4 for 41)

Second Innings
A J Strauss c Cunliffe b Walsh .. 6
R A Kettleborough c Russell b Smith .. 11
O A Shah c Cunliffe b Walsh .. 4
P N Weekes c Windows b Smith .. 5
†K R Brown c Russell b Smith .. 0
*M R Ramprakash c Russell b Lewis .. 6
M W Gatting lbw b Walsh .. 2
R L Johnson c Smith b Walsh .. 0
J P Hewitt not out .. 3
A R C Fraser c Hancock b Lewis .. 0
P C R Tufnell c Ball b Lewis .. 16
Extras (lb 1, w 2, nb 10) .. 13
Total .. 72

FALL OF WICKETS 1-8, 2-12, 3-28, 4-28, 5-33, 6-49, 7-53, 8-55, 9-56

BOWLING: Walsh 10-3-22-4, Smith 10-2-17-3, Lewis 9.2-2-32-3

Umpires D R Shepherd and K E Palmer.

Northamptonshire v Sussex

NORTHAMPTON (third day of four): Northamptonshire (20pts) beat Sussex (4) by 136 runs

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings 178 (K M Curran 60; J J Bates 4 for 69)

Second Innings
R J Bailey c Humphries b Kirtley .. 4
A J Swann c Pierce b Bates .. 12
A L Penberthy b Bates .. 11
*K M Curran lbw b Bates .. 46
D J O Saker lbw b Bates .. 0
K J Innes b Robinson .. 31
†D Ripley run out .. 5
G P Swann lbw b Robinson .. 12
J P Taylor c Humphries b Kirtley .. 22
M K Davies c Newell b Bates .. 4
J F Brown not out .. 0
Extras (b 4, lb 10, nb 4) .. 18
Total .. 165

FALL OF WICKETS 1-4, 2-28, 3-31, 4-35, 5-104, 6-113, 7-131, 8-135, 9-163.

BOWLING Kirtley 7-4-9-2; Edwards 3-0-8-0; Bates 23 5-7-67-5, Robinson 14-6-32-2; Rao 12-2-35-0.

SUSSEX: First Innings 72 (J F Brown 5 for 23, M K Davies 5 for 19)

Second Innings
M T E Peirce b Taylor .. 1
W G Khan b Davies .. 26
*C J Adams run out .. 14
R K Rao c Penberthy b Taylor .. 0
K Newell c Ripley b Davies .. 14
R S C Martin-Jenkins lbw b G P Swann .. 20
A D Edwards lbw b G P Swann .. 4
†S Humphries c Penberthy b G P Swann .. 17
J J Bates b G P Swann .. 4
R J Kirtley c Innes b G P Swann .. 12
M A Robinson not out .. 4
Extras (b 5, lb 12) .. 17
Total .. 135

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-23, 3-23, 4-58, 5-82, 6-94, 7-105, 8-111, 9-127.

BOWLING Taylor 6-2-10-2; Penberthy 3-1-17-0; Davies 20-7-35-2; Brown 13-5-27-0; G P Swann 13 1-5-29-5.

Umpires T E Jesty and R A White.

Notts v Lancashire

TRENT BRIDGE (first day of four: Nottinghamshire won toss): Nottinghamshire, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 157 runs behind Lancashire

LANCASHIRE: First Innings
J P Crawley c Archer b Evans .. 44
M Chilton c Archer b Tolley .. 28
N H Fairbrother b Franks .. 88
G D Lloyd lbw b Tolley .. 13
A Flintoff c Read b Tolley .. 9
†W K Hegg c Weston b Tolley .. 7
*Wasim Akram c Archer b Tolley .. 0
I D Austin c Archer b Oram .. 1
O Chapple b Oram .. 2
P J Martin not out .. 4
G Keedy c Read b Tolley .. 2
Extras (lb 6, w 4, nb 10) .. 20
Total (71.5 overs) .. 218

FALL OF WICKETS 1-64, 2-94, 3-127, 4-147, 5-175, 6-175, 7-182, 8-212, 9-213

BOWLING Franks 13-4-35-1, Oram 16-2-63-2; Evans 20-8-40-1; Tolley 22 5-5-74-6

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings
G E Welton lbw b Martin .. 7
*J E R Gallian c Flintoff b Martin .. 3
U Afzal c Hegg b Wasim .. 1
P Johnson lbw b Austin .. 19
G F Archer not out .. 18
C M Tolley not out .. 3
Extras (b 8, nb 2) .. 10
Total (4 wkts, 24 overs) .. 61

†C M W Read, P J Franks, K P Evans, R T Bates and A R Oram to bat

FALL OF WICKETS 1-10, 2-11, 3-17, 4-57

BOWLING Wasim Akram 9-2-23-1; Martin 6-1-7-2; Chapple 6-3-17-0; Austin 3-1-6-1.

Bonus points: Nottinghamshire 4 Lancashire 2

Umpires: N T Plews and M J Harris

Wores v Hampshire

WORCESTER (third day of four): Worcestershire, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are 178 runs ahead of Hampshire

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings 212 (J P Stephenson 4 for 29, N McLean 4 for 82)

Second Innings
W P C Weston not out .. 57
A Habeeb lbw b McLean .. 5
*G A Hick c Aymes b McLean .. 5
V S Solanki c White b James .. 6
D A Leatherdale b McLean .. 24
†S J Rhodes not out .. 34
Extras (b 1, lb 8, w 2, nb 4) .. 13
Total (4 wkts) .. 144

FALL OF WICKETS 1-13, 2-21, 3-32, 4-65

BOWLING McLean 11-3-37-3, Morris 14-4-25-0; James 10-3-15-1, Mascarenhas 9-3-40-0; Stephenson 7-2-17-0; Udal 3-1-3-0.

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings
O W While lbw b Haynes .. 30
J P Stephenson lbw b Haynes .. 47
W S Kendall lbw b Haynes .. 0
*R A Smith lbw b Shaniyar .. 33
I A N Aymes c Rhodes b Haynes .. 0
M Keech lbw b Shaniyar .. 5
A O Mascarenhas c Rhodes b Lampitt .. 14
K D James b Shaniyar .. 9
S D Udal c Illingworth b Haynes .. 15
A C Morris not out .. 0
N McLean c Chapman b Haynes .. 11
Extras (b 4, lb 2, nb 6) .. 14
Total (71.4 overs) .. 178

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-65, 2-65, 3-102, 4-102, 5-107, 6-138, 7-136, 8-167, 9-167.

BOWLING: Shaniyar 20-8-48-3, Chapman 8-1-23-0; Lampitt 21-7-45-1, Haynes 22 4-6-50-6.

Bonus points: Worcestershire 5 Hampshire 4

Umpires A G T Whitehead and A Clarkson.

Yorkshire v Warwickshire

HEADINGLEY (third day of four): Warwickshire, with three second-innings wickets in hand, need 134 runs to avoid an innings defeat against Yorkshire

YORKSHIRE: First Innings
C White b Munton .. 9
M P Vaughan b Giddins .. 23
M J Wood not out .. 200
*D Byas lbw b Munton .. 28
B Parker c Giles b Brown .. 6
†R J Blakey b Brown .. 29
O M Hamilton c Giddins b Brown .. 78
J O Middlebrook not out .. 1
Extras (b 15, lb 15, nb 2) .. 32
Total (6 wkts dec) .. 408

Score at 120 overs 391-5

C E W Silverwood, P M Hutchison and M J Hoggard did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS. 1-29, 2-41, 3-85, 4-116, 5-253, 6-395

BOWLING: Giddins 39-10-133-1; Brown 31 1-8-110-3. Munton 33-10-94-2; Giles 17-6-34-0. Smith 2-0-7-0.

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings
*N V Knight c Middlebrook b Hutchison .. 0
M A Wagh c Blakey b Silverwood .. 1
O L Hemp b Hutchison .. 16
T L Penney c Blakey b Silverwood .. 17
O R Brown c Byas b Hutchison .. 18
N M K Smith c Byas b Hutchison .. 4
†K J Piper lbw b Silverwood .. 0
A F Giles c Byas b Hutchison .. 0
T A Munton c Wood b Hutchison .. 1
E S H Giddins not out .. 4
A Singh abs .. 0
Extras (b 4, lb 15, w 2, nb 2) .. 23
Total (23.3 overs) .. 84

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-15, 3-57, 4-61, 5-76, 6-79, 7-79, 8-80, 9-84.

BOWLING: Silverwood 12-1-40-3, Hutchison 11 3-6-25-6.

Second Innings
*N V Knight not out .. 103
M A Wagh b Hutchison .. 0
O L Hemp c Byas b Hamilton .. 29
T L Penney c Blakey b Hamilton .. 13
O R Brown c Blakey b Middlebrook .. 19
N M K Smith b Hoggard .. 2
†K J Piper b Hoggard .. 0
T A Munton c Blakey b Hoggard .. 8
A F Giles not out .. 3
Extras (b 9, lb 4) .. 13
Total (7 wkts) .. 190

FALL OF WICKETS 1-4, 2-61, 3-115, 4-152, 5-159, 6-159, 7-175

BOWLING. Silverwood 9-1-37-0, Hutchison 14 2-5-30-1; Hamilton 16-7-34-2; Hoggard 13-3-63-3, Middlebrook 9-3-13-1.

Bonus points: Yorkshire 8 Warwickshire 2

Umpires. H D Bird and R Julian

هكذا من الأصل

Battles on away soil will sort out men from the boys

MICHAEL LYNAGH

THE opening weekend of the season in England saw victory achieved by every home side and it seems certain that the Allied Dunbar Premiership will be won by the team that can regularly travel and win without the comforts of home.

In Australia, we don't have this home and away problem, apart from the television programme of that name. Our club competitions are based in one city. The inter-state games are played on a home and away basis, but I have never held too many fears about travelling from Brisbane to Sydney to play New South Wales — apart from the normal nerves, of course. The Super 12 is a different business altogether, travel and jet lag being the biggest contributing factor to away losses.

I first encountered this attitude to home-ground advantage when I played in Italy. It was strange to me that everyone was available to play at home one week and then, suddenly, a mystery injury would surface the following week when the trip to Sicily was scheduled. After I had played there and experienced the hostile home crowd, I developed an ailment myself the next time we were due to play there.

When I started playing with Saracens, I was told by many experienced English players that Kingsholm, the home of Gloucester, was the hardest ground to win at. Why? "The Shed," was their response. "Just wait until you hear The Shed." When we did get to Gloucester, started poorly and got behind on the scoreboard, I could almost hear "I told you so".

This then becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. Subconsciously, you tell yourself that it is impossible to win and, when this starts to occur, it becomes a reality, then a pattern, and ultimately a tradition — it is always impossible to win at Gloucester. In life, you typically get what you expect; expect to lose and you have already lost.

The factors that appear to contribute the most to players and teams having problems away from home are unfamiliarity with the environment and the animosity of the home supporters.

Players are comfortable playing in front of spectators who are supportive. They are on his team's side generally and sometimes negative towards the opposiöon.

Every player and squad has a set routine that works well. Both the routine and the crowd are things that contribute greatly to the comfort level and, therefore, to the performance of the team. When the team goes on the road, these factors are disturbed. How the individual and the team cope will have a direct influence on their success.

The crowd can affect players in different ways. The supporters cannot come on the field and play against you, but sometimes that is just how it feels. I often found it easier playing in front of crowds of between 30,000 and 60,000 in huge arenas than playing in front of a couple of thousand in a suburban club ground. You can hear individual comments and generally you feel a lot closer to the public.

At, say, Twickenham, the crowd is far away and seems to blend into one big, noisy background with a certain degree of anonymity — unöl you make an error, and then you feel the crowd and want to dig yourself a hole.

How do you overcome all this and start to perform well away from the comforts of your own patch? Finding a pre-match routine that works is the first step. By this, I don't mean just putting the left sock on before the right one in the dressing-room; it is all about getting yourself comfortable, eating the same foods that you would at home, at the same time, both before the game and the night before.

Sleeping well is important. There is often temptation, because you are away from home with friends, to be enticed to play cards, go to the movies or generally stay up later than you would in your normal home environment.

It is necessary to travel and arrive at your destinaöon in time to allow you to settle into your normal routine. What you eat while travelling is also important. We all know what airport and train station food tastes like: not only does it taste great, but it is really good for you too.

Warming up before the game should mirror what works for you at your home ground. After all, it serves to ready your body to perform.

How to deal with the hostile crowd is probably the most important issue. Being able to say that it does not concern you is easy: actually to believe that and perform is another thing. The crowd should be irrelevant to your performanre.

How the team deals with this phenomenon collectively, coaching staff and management included, is of huge significance in turning around the problem of playing away from home. In terms of importance to this season, I repeat: whichever team copes best with away fixtures will win the ötle.

RUGBY UNION: NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE DETERMINED TO SOLVE PROBLEMS

Baron sets sights on finding cash formula

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

RUGBY union's revolving door swung open again yesterday. The leading English clubs having announced the resignation of Doug Ash, their chief executive, on Wednesday, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) was able to announce the long-awaited appointment of its chief executive, Francis Baron.

It is 13 months since Tony Hallett resigned as the RFU secretary, a victim of the power struggle involving the chibs and Cliff Brittle, then chairman of the union's management board. For much of that time Brittle took cautious steps towards a replacement for Hallett, insistent that the right person to run the multimillion-pound business that rugby is becoming would not fall out of the nearest tree.

When Brittle himself was ousted by a vote of the annual meeting in July, Brian Baister, his successor, committed himself to filling the void as soon as possible. Baister has kept his promise and the newcomer is due to take up his new position in mid-October. "Francis was our first choice in a competitive field," Baister said. "We all look forward to working with him to find soludons and a way forward for the union."

Baron, 52, has an impressive business pedigree that, significantly, includes a background in marketing and a spell working in television. "My clear remit is to get the game profitable," the former chief executive to First Choice Holidays plc said. "At the moment no one is making any money, including the RFU. I want to find ways of achieving profitability within the industry and to do that, you must have a clear product to sell to fans, television, sponsors."

Tuigamala: efforts in vain

Baron graduated from Cambridge University with a degree in mechanical sciences. He missed his Blue but played open-side flanker for Rosslyn Park in the mid-1970s, though his loyalties have now switched to Richmond who, for all the efforts made by Va'aiga Tuigamala on Newcastle's behalf last weekend, made a statement of their own against the champions. Tuigamala and friends must now seek to open their account against Bath this afternoon.

"If you are a follower of the game, as I am, you must be dismayed at what is going on," Baron said. "The one thing that is clear to me is that if we can get the game sorted out, properly administered and structured, with everyone behind it, we have a product which will be increasingly attractive, particularly with digital television just starting."

Since Baron was involved in negotiating the rights of the 1991 World Cup for Screensport, which took the tournament into 40 million homes throughout Europe, he brings to the party just the expertise the RFU has sought. Above all, the new man must bring stability; faces within the game have changed almost as swiftly as agendas, leaving the game at a loss to know with whom agreements can be reached.

The English clubs, who know they can do business with Baister even though they have not gone out of their way to help him, will reserve judgement on Baron. It is time, however, for the musical chairs to stop and for administrators within the game to start trusting each other once more.

"Some of the things happening in our game defy common sense," Glanmor Griffiths, chairman of the Welsh Rugby Union, said this week. His union is still talking of sanctions to be imposed against their breakaway clubs, Cardiff and Swansea, though a degree of pragmatic procrastination seems the order of the day.

That is the RFU's approach too: the council has agreed that games between first-division clubs and the two Welsh clubs are outside the spirit of the Mayfair Agreement, but has empowered the management board to find a solution. Thus decisions are batted back and forth over an invisible net, the latest round of talks suggesting that working parties on the projected British league may find a way out of the impasse.

The rest of the game, though, still goes on. Peter Trunkfield, president of the RFU, will meet the English Rugby Counties Association at Coventry tomorrow to discuss the development of junior rugby: perhaps a moment's silence will be in order, in memory of Michael Pearey, Trunkfield's predecessor in 1990-1, who died earlier this week after a lifetime devoted to playing and administrating the game. A memorial service will be held at Christ's Hospital next month.

MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE

L Scottish v Leicester
Head to head: Leicester lead 1-0
Derrick Lee returns after suspension at fullback for Scottish, who upset the odds by beating Sale last week and have lost only one of their last seven games. Ian McCausland moves to right wing. In the pack, Magnus MacDonald replaces the injured Paul Johnstone and Guy Manson-Bishop, from Western Province, makes his league debut. Leicester make one change with Graham Rowntree returning for Derek Jelley at tighthead.

Manchester Sale v Bedford
Head to head: Sale 1 win, 3 draws
Sale wrestle with injuries Jim Mallinder and David Rees are out and Dion O'Cunneagain, the No 8, is in hospital after sustaining a back injury in training. Jos Baxendell, the fly half, is also a doubt. Tom Beim could return after dislocating his shoulder tackling Jonah Lomu last summer. Simon Raiwalui is with Fiji so Chris Murphy and David Baldwin are at lock. Bedford replace Virgil Hartland with Clem Boyd, Junior Paramore is with Samoa and James Cockle is at the Commonwealth Games.

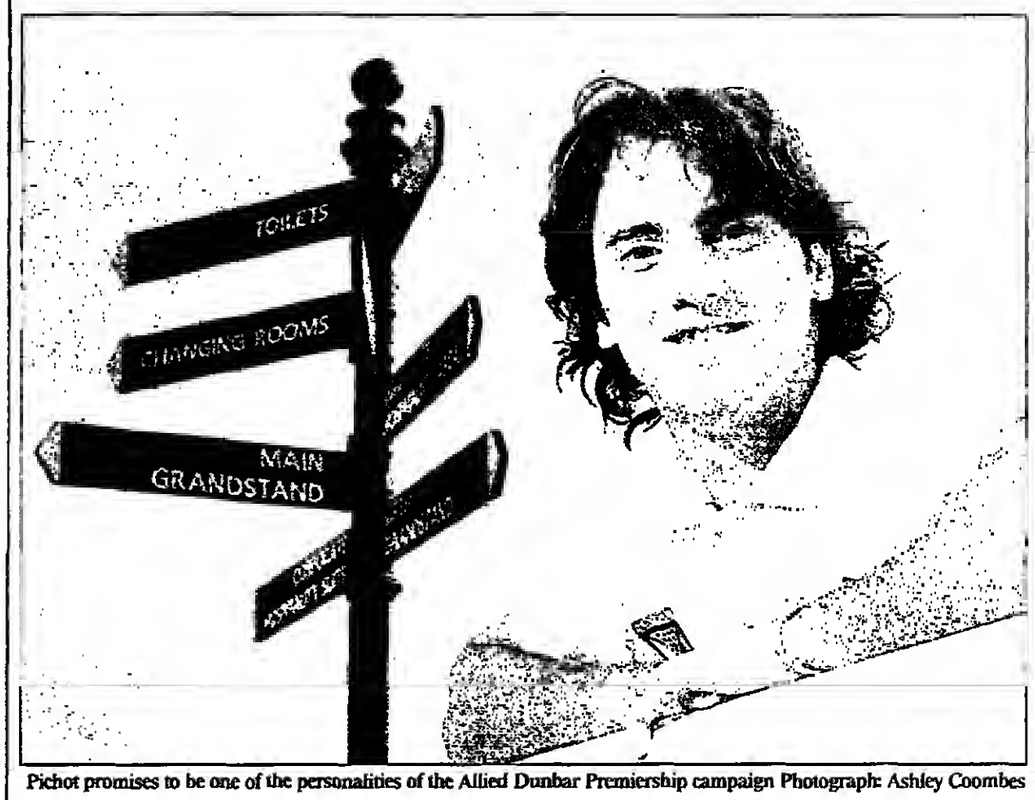
Newcastle v Bath
Head to head : 2-2
Newcastle did the double over Bath on their way to the title last season. They keep faith with the same side that came unstuck at Richmond. No decision yet on who plays at number 10 — will it be Wilkinson or Andrew? Bath select the XV that started against Wasps as Mark Regan has recovered from a foot injury. Andy Nicol is again on the bench, as is Matt Perry, who has recovered from a wrist injury.

Northampton v Harlequins
Head to head: Harlequins lead 7-4
Both lost heavily last week and will be looking to put things right. Saints are missing Pat Lam, on World Cup duty with Samoa. Grant Seely comes in. Jason Chandler is in the squad after Simon Foale's call-up to the England Commonwealth Games team. Matt Allen is also in the 22. For Quins, Jason Keyter comes in for Darren O'Leary on the wing. Chris Wright plays his first game of the season at fly-half, John Schuster moving to centre and Pete Mensah dropping to the bench. Adam Leach, no longer counting as an overseas player, is preferred to Bibby.

Richmond v Gloucester
Head to head: 1-1
Richmond are on a high after thumping Newcastle. Not surprisingly, the team picks itself again. With access problems again expected at the Madejski Stadium, fans should arrive early. Entertainment starts at 2pm in the shape of an opera spectacular. Gloucester are missing Terry Fanolua, who is with Western Samoa. Simon Mannix comes in at inside centre; Phil Vickery has a neck strain and is replaced by Andy Deacon.

W Hartlepool v London Irish (tomorrow)
Head to head: London Irish lead 2-1
West, who kick off at the Victoria Park stadium, make one change following their defeat last week by Swansea. Shaun Cassidy replaces Dan Hyde in the back row. Irish who also came unstuck, at Kingsholm, have a new half-back pairing in James Brown and Peter Richards. Kris Fullman starts at tighthead in place of Rob Hardwick and Robert Todd replaces Nick Burrows at centre.

MARK SOUSTER



Pichot promises to be one of the personalities of the Allied Dunbar Premiership campaign Photograph: Ashley Coombes

Diminutive Pichot is happy with business at Richmond

DAVID HANDS

Agustin Pichot: the scrum half Scotland let slip through their fingers — not that Pichot, with his flowing locks, lean, tanned face and Spanish accent is readily identifiable as a child of the glens, but surely, in these days of loose affiliations, anyooe educated at St Andrew's School must have a Scottish qualification.

Sadly for the Scots, who readily appreciated Pichot's skills when he played scrum half for the Barbarians at Murrayfield in 1996, the school that be attended was in Buenos Aires and Argentina, who saw scores of players leave their shores to compete in Europe or elsewhere in the southern hemisphere in the years between 1985 and 1995, are not about to relinquish their grasp on Pichot.

They have, however, let him stray as far as Richmond, or rather Reading, which is where Pichot's employers now ply their trade trade. For that, Richmond and Ashley Levett, their benefactor, will be duly grateful, because the lithe youngster will surely be one of the personalities of the 1998-99 Allied Dunbar Premiership. Newcastle, the champions, will testify to that after Pichot's display against them on the opening Saturday of the season.

In these days of increasing power, of shaven-headed hulks and wings who resemble locks, Pichot, 24, a modest 5ft 9in and 12st 7lb, is a throwback: smart as a whip, swift and elusive about the field, with all the feel for a rugby ball that his countrymen so frequently possess.

There is also the tradition. Pichot, who follows his father and grandfather into the game, said: "I was a member of my club, Club Atlético San Isidro, from the moment I was born. In Argentina, you play for the same club all your life. I started when I was four."

The game was played at St Andrew's and at St John the Baptist, where Pichot moved before taking up his studies at the University of Palermo, but it was with CASI that the young man made his name, in the same position as Enrique, his father. First, however, he had to move aside Enrique Jr — his brother, two years older and also a scrum half until the irresistible advance of Agustin forced him to move to fly half and establish a fraternal partnership at half back.

By the age of 17, he had played first XV football for CASI and, two years later, he won the first of his 16 caps for his country. Pichot acknowledges his good fortune to be emerging at a time when Argentina were being forced to relax their stringently amateur approach to international selection. "If things had not changed, maybe I wouldn't have come to England," he said, "but I talked to the president of the rugby federation and made sure that I would still be invited to play for Argentina."

With that assurance, Pichot was free to achieve the ambition he had nurtured since his first visit to England as a 14-year-old — to live and work here, specifically in London, where he has just moved into a new home in Twickenham. The offers came flooding in, but Richmond, with whom he has a two-year contract, clinched the deal.

There are, though, conditions that Pichot could not ignore. "If my mother thought I was not going to keep up my studies, she'd be on a plane to drag me back," he said. Christina and Enrique, the most supportive of parents, have always insisted that their second of three sons and one daughter maintains his studies and so, to the law and marketing degree he pursued in Buenos Aires. Pichot is now adding a course in business studies at University College, Brunel — the old West London Institute.

Pichot has a thirst for knowledge and advancement, which makes him as much a model for the new professional rugby player as anyone, but while he settled into London last year with greater ease than he anticipated, he found it frustrating that his opportunities to play seemed to be restricted. "I love to play and I didn't understand why I was not chosen," Pichot said. "But when I did start playing, things were going well for Richmond and I could understand what John Kingston [the club's director of rugby] was trying to do. Sometimes you think only of yourself and you don't comprehend what's going on with the group.

"I wasn't used to professionalism, to lots of people coming from different places to play for one team. You can be paid to be in a team but if you don't feel it, you'll never perform. Rugby's about a team performing and that's what we saw on Saturday against Newcastle. This championship is one of the best in the world and that's why I want to make my point this season."

The pace of the game is increasing so much that Pichot's skills are becoming even more valuable, so often can he add that extra dimension that will break down stubborn defensive screens. If Argentina can offer him the framework, he will be one of the key performers of the 1999 World Cup, after which he will consider his future.

It is significant that two of his models are Pierre Berbizier, the long-serving France scrum half, and Dewi Morris, late of England — one a crafty, guileful player, the other full of bustling exuberance. If Pichot can combine the two, then surely we must have more years in which to admire his perceptive play. "Maybe after the World Cup I'll say: 'Yes, I want more of this,'" he said. "That's how I am thinking now."

Friendly fire awaits Saracens

BY GERALD DAVIES

WHY, when there is a full league programme of fixtures in Wales today, is the main attraction elsewhere?

Saracens, England's cup-holders, visit Cardiff Arms Park. This match, along with that of Swansea's against Wasps the following day, will provide, one could argue, a significant pointer as to the way these so-called friendly cross-border encounters are likely to develop and as an indication of their future value.

Both Bedford and West Hartlepool, who, respectively, the two Welsh clubs met last weekend, were themselves new to the Allied Dunbar Premiership and consequently could not provide a proper measure of the strength of the two leading clubs in Wales.

"There's no such thing as a friendly", is the way the game has been promoted this week in Cardiff. This, to a degree, is true. Once a player dons his club colours, and a large crowd turns up to see him play, it takes a careless frame of mind, or else a foolish one, to perform in a lower gear than would normally be the case.

The expectation is that Cardiff will draw a crowd today that will be above the aggregate figure of 8,140 for all four matches on the opening Saturday of the Welsh season. Membership of the Cardiff club and season ticket holders already show a 40 per cent increase on last year. Yet Gareth Davies, the Cardiff chief executive, remains cautious. "This is a new scenario for us," he said yesterday. "We don't know how many will turn up and we are keeping our fingers crossed."

In the past two days alone, with a growing conviction that there is a full fixture list of competitive matches against the most powerful clubs in the land, Davies points out that Cardiff have sold more than 1,000 additional season tickets.

The ball, to begin with, is firmly in Cardiff's court. Saracens have chosen a full side, in which case Cardiff will need to be more convincing than they were against Bedford last week when Saracens continued where they left off in May and gave Northampton a lesson.

Within the main contest there is the appetising prospect at half back of Robert Howley, of Cardiff, competing against Kyran Bracken and Lee Jarvis, 21, may learn a thing or two from the wily Saracen, Alain Penaud

Whatever the rights and wrongs of these fixtures, anticipation for this match runs higher than for any in the the Welsh league.

BASKETBALL

Giants show huge potential

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

AMONG the 13 clubs in the Budweiser League that will tip off the 1998-99 campaign this week will be two new franchises, one newly-amalgamated club, eight new coaches and a host of new players, most of them from across the Atlantic. All too few English players will contribute.

Few clubs will have squads bearing any resemblance to those that finished last season. If that is said in the cases of Birmingham Bullets and the Leopards, who captured the main honours last season, with exciting groups of players that have broken up since, it will be welcomed in others such as Manchester Giants, the perennial under-achievers.

Under their new coach, Nick Nurse, the Giants have assembled a cast that should prove too strong for their rivals. Nurse may have a problem, however, dealing with their over-sized egos. "It could well be the Giants will need more than one ball on court," Mike Smith, the league's chief executive, joked.

In tempting so many talented players, the Giants have apparently exceeded the salary cap of £157,000, which means that John White must sit out the opening match tonight against the Bullets. As sentiment would have it, Nurse, the former Bullets coach, will be pitting his wits against his friend, Mike Finger, the man he recommended. Finger has reinforced his depleted squad by signing Neville Austin.

Austin's former club, London Towers, who have merged with Crystal Palace, receive Edinburgh Rocks, one of the new franchises, tonight.

RUGBY LEAGUE: POST-BOSMAN ERA LEADING TO INCREASED MOVEMENT OF PLAYERS

Naylor free to join in Bulls' stampede

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

AS THE Bosman ruling from football takes effect in rugby league, Scott Naylor became the latest player to move clubs without a transfer fee yesterday when the centre signed for Bradford Bulls from Salford Reds for the 1999 season.

Henry Paul, another Bradford-bound player, Brett Goldspink and Fereti Tuilagi are others serving out contracts with existing clubs before moving as free agents at the end of this season. Only players younger than 24 now command transfer fees. As more than 50 Super League players are nearing the end of existing deals, the post-Bosman era is set to unleash a frenzy of player movement. With an estimated 15 players at Salford seeking new deals, the Reds are especially vulnerable, now that Naylor has followed Nathan McAvoy, his fellow centre, to Bradford.

None of the worries about salary cap restrictions and reductions in central funding to accommodate Gateshead's entry in 1999 have inhibited Bradford, who have responded to their indifferent season by overhauling their personnel.

After the announcement earlier this week that Paul will team up with his brother, Robbie, at half back next season, Bradford confirmed a two-year deal for Naylor, 26, as replacement for Graeme Bradley, who intends to retire after the JJB Super League play-offs next month. Matthew Elliott, the Bradford coach, said that Naylor would add impact and quality to an outside back line that has missed the pugnacious Danny Peacock.

In the tussle with London Broncos for the fifth play-off spot, it is important that Bradford maintain their improved home form when Warrington Wolves visit tomorrow, despite Tevita Vaikona and Matt Calland joining the casualty list and a further doubt about McAvoy's fitness.

St Helens, who also have more of an eye on next season with Ellery Hanley due in the coaching seat, have withdrawn contract offers to Karle Hammond and Ian Pickavance. Tommy Martyn is likely to return against Castleford Tigers after three weeks on the sidelines with an Achilles tendon problem.

Wigan Warriors and Leeds Rhinos will be looking to continued their vein of form away to the bottom clubs, Salford and Huddersfield Giants, respectively. Denis Betts returns for Wigan after a four-game absence. Wes Davies, grandson of Billy Boston, the club's record try scorer, is on the Wigan bench.

RACING: UNDERSTUDY TO SEA WAVE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO STAR IN ST LEGER

Nedawi can step from shadows

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

THE stayer takes centre stage at Doncaster today with the latest running of Britain's oldest classic — and exposes a contradiction within the sport.

At the end of a week when Double Trigger provided a timely reminder that stayers in full flight are one of the most majestic sights on the Flat, the Pertemps St Leger is under fire as never before. A headline in *Racing Post* read "Is there any life left in the Leger?" after the defection of Sea Wave, the ante-post favourite, a response to the belief in some quarters that the season's final classic requires a radical overhaul.

This year's renewal, it is argued, is a classic in name only with no runner having won a group one or two race. Further evidence, in the shape of moderate ratings achieved by St Leger runners, is proffered as a reason for change. However, as Mark Johnston, the trainer of Double Trigger, pointed out after the Doncaster Cup, stayers rarely receive the official credit they deserve because their ratings tend to be based on performances against mile and a half horses. Equally important, the St Leger is often the first opportunity for horses with stamina-packed pedigrees to show their full ability.

Six of today's runners have never raced beyond a mile and a half and a majority of those should, in theory, improve over the extra 572 yards. Sunshine Street is the form choice on his Derby fourth to High-Rise, but fast ground is a prerequisite and he may find the going against him.

Michael Hills has chosen The Glow-Worm in preference to High And Low, and the colt's breeding suggests he will relish his first attempt at this trip. After finishing sixth in the Derby, he needed the run on unsuitably fast ground behind Sea Wave in the Great Voltigeur Stakes. Significantly, on the three occasions he has run on easy or soft ground he has won.

Sadian, seventh in the Derby and supplemented for this, was strongly supported yesterday. He is a resolute galloper who should be in the shake-up, but may be vulnerable to a finisher with a turn of foot.

However, the runner that makes most appeal is the lightly raced **Nedawi**, who is open to considerable improvement. The Godolphin stablemate to Sea Wave was unraced at two but has quickly made up into a useful middle-distance performer.

On his debut at Goodwood in June, he beat Tuning, the subsequent Ebor winner, by six lengths. A month later, he showed improved form when chasing home Rabah at Haydock before dead-heating with the same horse on 4lb worse terms back at Goodwood. All three runs were over a mile and a half but the Rainbow Quest colt should come into his own over this trip.

Simon Crisford, the Godolphin racing manager, said yesterday: "We have deliberately given him a light summer campaign with this race in mind, knowing the the trip will suit. Wall Street [his half-brother] was by Mr Prospector and got a mile and a half, so this fellow, being by Rainbow Quest, is guaranteed to stay further. He is a progressive horse and we have not got to the bottom of him yet. The St Leger will show what is left in the tank. He is giving us all the right signals."

JULIAN HERBERT/ALLSPORT

The Glow-Worm is among the leading St Leger fancies

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: EVENING PROMISE (2.00 Doncaster)
Next best: Elhida (4.45 Doncaster)

BIG-RACE LINE-UP

3.40 PERTEMPS ST LEGER STAKES C4
(Group I: 3-Y-O: £200,800: 1m 6f 132yd) (9 runners)

401 (9) 1151100 ARDLEIGH CHARMER 8 (G,S) (Rosalco Ltd) C Dwyer 9-0 ... K Darley 82
(ch c Theatrical Charmer - Miss Adventure) (Blue and white diamonds, striped sleeves, check cap)
402 (2) 21-3114 DARK MOONDANCER 13 (G,S) (A Gillespie, J Wilson) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0 R Hughes 78
(b c Anshan - Oh So Well) (Emerald green and red quartered, white sleeves, red armlets)
403 (4) 2211-20 ECO FRIENDLY 14 (C,S) (W Gredley) B Hills 9-0 ... R Cochrane 113
(ch c Sabrehill - Flower Girl) (Yellow, black and yellow striped sleeves, white cap)
404 (1) 131 NEDAWI 46 (G) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 9-0 ... J Reid 109
(ch c Rainbow Quest - Wajd) (Royal blue)
405 (6) -120011 SADIAN 9 (F,G,S) (Prince A Faisal) J Dunlop 9-0 ... T Quinn 111
(b c Shirley Heights - Ratha) (Maroon, grey epaulets, grey cap, maroon star)
406 (3) 2224012 SUNSHINE STREET 28 (BF,G) (P Garvey) N Meade (Ire) 9-0 ... J Murtagh 124
(b c Sunshine Forever - Meadow Spirit) (Red and grey stripes, grey sleeves, red cap)
407 (8) 31641 TA-LIM 14 (F,G) (H al-Maktoum) M Stoute 9-0 ... R Hills 99
(b c Ela-Mana-Mou - Alkafeyeh) (Royal blue, white epaulets, striped cap)
408 (5) 31-1265 THE GLOW-WORM 25 (S) (Mrs J Corbett) B Hills 9-0 ... M Hills 116
(b c Doyoun - Shakandar) (Royal blue, silver striped sleeves, blue and red hooped cap)
409 (7) 2-102 HIGH AND LOW 24 (B) (K Abdulla) B Hills 8-11 ... J Fortune 106
(b f Rainbow Quest - Cruising Height) (Green, pink sash and cap, white sleeves)

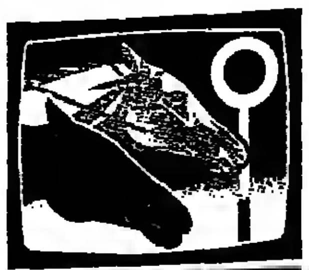
BETTING: 2-1 Nedawi, 7-2 The Glow-Worm, 5-1 Sadian, 13-2 High And Low, 7-1 Ta-Lim, 10-1 Dark Moondancer, Sunshine Street, 25-1 Eco Friendly, 200-1 Ardleigh Charmer

1997: SILVER PATRIARCH 9-0 Pat Eddery (5-4 fav) J Dunlop 10 ran

FORM FOCUS Dark Moondancer 2½l 4th of 8 to Epistolaire in group II at Deauville (1m 4f 110yd, good). Eco Friendly 18l last of 9 to Annus Mirabilis in group III at Windsor (1m 2f 7yd, good to firm). Nedawi dead-heated with Rabah in 6-runner group III at Goodwood (1m 4f, good), previously 1¼l 3rd of 8 to Rabah in listed stakes at Haydock (1m 3f 200yd, good to firm). Sadian beat Secret Archive ½l in 3-runner stakes at Salisbury (1m 6f 15yd, good). Sunshine Street 1l 2nd of 6 to Make No Mistake in group II at the Curragh (1m 2f, good), earlier 2¾l 4th of 15 to High-Rise in group I Derby at Epsom (1m 4f 10yd, good) with The Glow-Worm 6¾l 6th and Sadian 9¼l 7th. Ta-Lim beat Generous Terms 2½l in 3-runner listed stakes at Goodwood (1m 6f, good to firm), previously 2¼l 4th of 12 to Blueprint in handicap at York (1m 5f 194yd, firm) with Ardleigh Charmer (17lb worse off) 23l last. The Glow-Worm 6¼l 5th of 6 to Sea Wave in group II at York (1m 3f 195yd, firm). High And Low 3l 2nd of 6 to Catchascatchcan in group I at York (1m 3f 195yd, firm).

SUNSHINE STREET made most of the running in the Derby and can hold on here

Young Bigwig on right track for return to form



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

GOODWOOD
BBC1

2.15: Rock Falcon, who needs things to go his way, was able to dictate over course and distance last time. **No Extras** was never going and finished well beaten there, but adores this course and is fairly handicapped. Omaha City's slow start condemned him to trouble in running in the same race, while Al Muallim caught the eye on his comeback but is unproven on easy ground.

2.45: Mutamam is a class act and can make all in conditions that suit him. He has taken his time to get his act together, but was most impressive at Haydock last time, where Winter Romance and Prince of Denial could never land a blow. Sasuru was a good horse last year, but has had his problems and faces a tall order on his return.

3.20: Young Bigwig has run over five furlongs on unsuitable tracks for his two most recent outings, but is proven over this course and distance and acts on easy ground. His stablemate, Squire Corrie, is well treated and has rediscovered all his speed, but that is more of an asset over five furlongs. Rififi goes well here but might prefer faster ground, but this is the right trip for Rum Lad.

Chris McGrath

DONCASTER
CHANNEL 4

3.05: Risque Lady has enjoyed little luck in decent handicaps, notably when third at Goodwood last time. She is well handicapped but may be best over seven furlongs. In a wide open affair, **Tom Dougal** gets a tentative vote. He has not raced since disappointing at Royal Ascot but previously won competitive handicaps at Newmarket and York.

3.40: see left.

4.15: Orsay improved to win at Sandown three weeks ago and the form has been boosted by the subsequent victories of runner-up Infatuation and Cherokee Flight. He still looks fairly treated but is drawn very wide. **French Connection** should get the strongly run race he needs here and holds claims judged on his defeat of Lucayan Indian at Haydock and close second to Naskhi at Newcastle.

4.45: On a tough card for punters, **Elhida** looks a sound bet. She showed plenty of promise when chasing home Mythical Girl on her debut in a Newmarket maiden, and subsequently got off the mark at Goodwood. Her style of racing suggests the step back to five furlongs will suit.

Richard Evans

LEOPARDSTOWN
CHANNEL 4/BBC1

4.00: A splendid race and a suitable platform for **Swain** to win a group one race over a trip that was assumed to be too short before his short-head defeat in the Dubai World Cup (Chris McGrath writes). That confirmed his principal requirement is to be produced from off a strong pace, as did his second success in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes. Happy Valentine guarantees the requisite test. One So Wonderful was a brave winner at York but that was a great spectacle rather than a great race, and Alborada could represent the biggest danger.

LEOPARDSTOWN FIELD BBC1, C4

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

4.00 ESAT DIGIFONE CHAMPION STAKES
(Group I: £116,400: 1m 2f) (8 runners)

1 (1) /15010 HAPPY VALENTINE 49 (D,G,S) (Godolphin) S Suroor (GB) 4-9-4 ... D J O'Donohoe
2 (2) 0-2231 SWAIN 49 (F,G,S) (Godolphin) S Suroor (GB) 6-9-4 ... L Dettori
3 (4) 11-011 ONE SO WONDERFUL 25 (D,F,G,S) (Helena Springfield) L Cumani (GB) 4-9-1 Pat Eddery
4 (3) 332021 MAKE NO MISTAKE 28 (B,D,G,S) (Moyglare Stud Farm) D Weld 3-8-11 ... M J Kinane
5 (6) 11-142 XAAR 28 (BF,G,S) (K Abdullah) A Fabre (Fr) 3-8-11 ... O Peslier
6 (7) 311-11 ALBORADA 42 (D,F,G,S) (Miss K Rausing) M Prescott 3-8-8 ... G Duffield
7 (5) -12015 SHAHTOUSH 24 (G,S) (Mrs D Nagle) A P O'Brien 3-8-8 ... J A Heffernan
8 (8) 1-0160 TARASCON 45 (F,G,S) (Mrs J Rowlinson) T Stack 3-8-8 ... J P Spencer

BETTING: 6-4 Swain, 3-1 One So Wonderful, 5-1 Xaar, 13-2 Shahtoush, 8-1 Alborada, 16-1 others.

DONCASTER

THUNDERER
2.00 Poles Apart
2.30 Night Of Glass
3.05 Kayo
3.40 High And Low
4.15 ALKATEB (nap)
4.45 Elhida
5.15 Montague Tigg

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.30 JAY-OWE-TWO.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.40 TA-LIM (nap). 4.45 Red Prairie. 5.15 Pepperdine.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 .. B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: J if jumps. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

GOING: GOOD — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: 5F-1M STR, HIGH NUMBERS BEST — SIS

2.00 GREAT NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY CONDITIONS STAKES
(2-Y-O: £5,796: 6f) (6 runners)

101 (3) 506420 CHOMPER 14 (G) (M Channon) M Channon 9-1 ... J Reid 78
102 (6) 31004 CHOTO MATE 11 (F) (V Matalon) R Hannon 9-1 ... R Hughes 66
103 (1) 122420 PRINCIPALITY 14 (S) (Mrs J Magnier) J Berry 9-1 ... K Darley 85
104 (2) 21 VISION OF NIGHT 21 (D,F) (Hesmonds Stud) J Dunlop 9-1 ... T Quinn 59
105 (4) 314 POLES APART 14 (D,F) (Flint Fairyhouse P'ship) M Tompkins 8-11 P Robinson 92
106 (5) 2415 EVENING PROMISE 23 (D,G) (Mrs C Lees-Jones) B McMahon 8-8 J Fortune 85

BETTING: 2-1 Evening Promise, 11-4 Poles Apart, 3-1 Vision of Night, 7-1 Principality, 10-1 others.

1997: BINTANG 9-1 T Quinn (8-11 fav) P Cole 6 ran

2.30 ROTHMANS ROYALS NORTH SOUTH SERIES SEMI-FINAL HANDICAP (£19,413: 1m rnd) (21 runners)

201 (13) 040600 GULF SHAADI 6 (D,F,G) (Bibby Halliday P'ship) E Alston 6-10-0 .. J F Egan 101
202 (7) 0-3045 RAHEEN 23 (D) (B Kielan) R Fahey 5-9-12 ... J Fortune 106
203 (11) 033000 NIGHT OF GLASS 12 (B,D,F,G,S) (K & B Silvester) J Eyre 5-9-7 ... K Darley 104
204 (4) 331643 BOLLIN TERRY 18 (BF,D,F,G) (Sir Neil Westbrook) T Easterby 4-9-2 L Charnock 93
205 (10) 326051 PLAN FOR PROFIT 10 (D,F,G) (Professional P'ship) M Johnston 4-8-13 D McKeown 98
206 (14) 510640 GREY KINGDOM 10 (C,F,G,S) (M Brittain) M Brittain 7-8-12 D Merragh (5) 103
207 (20) 131650 CIRCUITEER 27 (D,F,G) (D Fisher) J Berry 3-8-12 ... C Lowther 95
208 (21) 006231 QUEENS CONSUL 7 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs H Dawson) B Rothwell 8-8-9 M Fenton 103
209 (18) 024140 SUALTACH 21 (C,D,F,S) (N Sweeney) R Hollinshead 5-8-9 ... N Callan (5) 99
210 (19) 304242 JEDI KNIGHT 14 (BF,C,D,F,G) (K & J Hodgson) M W Easterby 4-8-8 T Lucas 98
211 (15) 101300 SCENE 28 (C,D,G,S) (P Dixon) J Glover 3-8-5 ... S D Williams 86
212 (12) 000010 PRIDE OF PENDLE 7 (CD,F,G,S) (L Millet) M Wane 9-8-4 . R FitzPatrick (5) 100
213 (5) 01-800 PANAMA HOUSE 21 (CD,F,G) (P England) T Easterby 3-8-3 ... G Parkin 97
214 (1) 413340 NIGHT CHORUS 10 (D,S) (R MacNair) B Rothwell 4-8-3 ... R Winston (3) 105
215 (16) 006564 JAY-OWE-TWO 10 (V,D,F,S) (Country Lane) R Whitaker 4-8-2 A McCarthy (3) 118
216 (6) 251400 REBEL COUNTY 10 (D,F,G,S) (Showtime Ice Cream) A Bailey 5-8-1 R Ffrench 105
217 (9) 025330 RYMER'S RASCAL 9 (F,S) (B Chambers) E Alston 6-1-12 ... A Mackay 99
218 (7) 020532 BOWCLIFFE 21 (D,F,G) (P Davies) E Alston 7-7-12 ... N Carlisle 101
219 (3) 543402 SUEZ TORNADO 10 (D,G,S) (Papermate Racing) E Alston 5-7-10 P Doe (5) 99
220 (8) 422533 TECHNICIAN 16 (B) (Bibby Halliday P'ship) E Alston 3-7-10 ... A Nicholls (5) 86
221 (17) 000600 JULMAT JOHN 14 (S) (Lords Of The Manor) E Alston 6-7-10 .. A Polli (5) 82

Long handicap: Technician 7-5 Julmat John 6-11

BETTING: 6-1 Pride Of Pendle, 7-1 Queens Consul, 8-1 Bollin Terry, 10-1 Raheen, Jedi Knight, Jay-Owe-Two, 12-1 Gulf Shaadi, Bowcliffe, Suez Tornado, 14-1 Night Of Glass, Rebel County, 16-1 others.

1997: EPIC STAND 3-8-13 J Fortune (10-11 Mrs J Ramsden 25 ran

3.05 PORCELANOSA RATED HANDICAP C4
(£15,478: 1m str) (13 runners)

301 (8) 220042 MUSALSAL 38 (CD,F,G) (H al-Maktoum) B Hills 4-9-7 ... M Hills 106
302 (5) -34003 RIGHT WING 44 (V,D,S) (Earl Cadogan) J Dunlop 4-9-2 ... T Quinn 111
303 (11) -55004 STRAZO 12 (D,F,G,S) (E Rettell) Lady Herries 5-9-1 ... Dean McKeown 105
304 (13) 535203 WEET-A-MINUTE 9 (D,F,G) (E Weetman) R Hollinshead 5-9-0 ... J Fortune 117
305 (12) 142-23 GOLDEN DICE 96 (BF,G) (S Khaled) H Cecil 3-8-12 ... A McGlone 86
306 (10) 316001 SILK ST JOHN 14 (D,F,G,S) (C R S Partners) M Ryan 4-8-9 ... R Cochrane 112
307 (1) 103120 ABAJANY 8 (BF,D,G,S) (J White & Partners) M Channon 4-8-8 ... J Reid 104
308 (7) 350218 HIGH SPIRITS 23 (B,D,F,G,S) (Mrs J Mountfield) T Easterby 4-8-8 K Darley 119
309 (2) 050332 RISQUE LADY 2 (F,G) (M Godwin) P Harris 3-8-7 ... C Lowther 116
310 (4) 302010 TERTIUM 23 (D,F,S) (M Barton) N Littmoden 6-8-7 ... M Fenton 109
311 (6) 301130 TOM DOUGAL 88 (D,G) (Mrs N Stewart) C Smith 3-8-6 ... J F Egan 113
312 (3) 012600 KAYO 10 (D,F,S) (J Abeill) T Etherington 3-8-6 ... R Ffrench 110
313 (9) 15-003 BERGEN 10 (F) (J Hanson) J Hanson 3-8-2 ... E Johnson 109

Long handicap: Tertium 8-4, Bergen 7-5

BETTING: 5-1 Risque Lady, 6-1 Silk St John, 7-1 High Spirits, Right Wing, Strazo, 8-1 Weet-A-Minute, 10-1 Abajany, Golden Dice, Musalsal, 16-1 Tertium, Tom Dougal, 20-1 Bergen, Kayo

1997: RUSSIAN MUSIC 4-9-2 K Fallon (8-1) Miss G Kelleway 11 ran

FORM FOCUS Musalsal neck 2nd of 6 to Saafeya in stakes at Newmarket (1m 2f, good to firm). Right Wing ¾l 3rd of 22 to For Your Eyes Only in handicap at Goodwood (1m, good to soft) with Tertium (7lb worse off) 3½l 7th and Risque Lady (level) 8¼l 14th. Strazo 5¼l 4th of 10 to Almond Rock in handicap at Ripon (1m, good). Weet-a-minute 2½l 3rd of 9 to Great Dane in stakes (listed) at York (1m 205yd, good). Golden Dice 3½l 3rd of 6 to Green Card in stakes at Nottingham (1m 54yd, good). Silk St John beat Shalad'or 1¼l in 10-runner handicap at Windsor (1m 67yd, good to firm). Abajany 4½l 11th of 21 to Lady Oranswell in handicap at Curragh (1m, good to soft). High Spirits 4¼l 6th of 14 to Sugarfoot in handicap at York (7f 202yd, firm) with Weet-A-Minute (1lb better off) 5¾l 8th and Tertium (1lb better off) 8¼l 10th. Risque Lady neck 2nd of 14 to Ashraakat in stakes (listed) at Doncaster (7f, good). Bergen 1½l 3rd of 24 to Pride Of Pendle in handicap at York (7f 202yd, good). Tertium (3lb better off) 7¼l 11th.

RIGHT WING is a consistent sort, and everything looks to be in his favour here

3.40 PERTEMPS ST LEGER STAKES C4
(Group I: 3-Y-O: £200,800: 1m 6f 132yd) (9 runners)

RUNNERS AND RIDERS — SEE ABOVE

4.15 LADBROKE HANDICAP C4
[SHOWCASE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE] (£17,870: 1m 2f 60yd) (20 runners)

501 (15) 2-140 SCATTERGUN 87 (G) (K Abdulla) J Gosden 4-8-13 ... R Ffrench 95
502 (14) 416120 PREMIER GENERATION 23 (D,F,G) (Mrs W Ozam) D Arbuthnot 5-9-9 S Whitworth 104
503 (6) 321213 MUHTAFEL 14 (D,F,G) (Pertemps Group Limited) J Jenkins 4-9-8 ... J Fortune 89
504 (7) 3/0333 ALKATEB 21 (B,BF,F) (Miss L Vollaro) Miss G Kelleway 6-9-8 ... P Robinson 101
505 (15) 412506 BAWSIAN 24 (CD,G,S) (D Scott) J Eyre 3-9-1 ... T Williams 98
506 (11) 2042-0 ALCONLEIGH 121 (G,S) (J Abell) M Johnston 3-9-6 ... R Hills 86
507 (12) 1-6601 HIMSELF 41 (D,G) (Scrope, Scott Partners) H Cecil 3-9-4 ... A McGlone 94
508 (5) 231 MUNDO RARO 27 (F) (Marquesa de Moratalla) J FitzGerald 3-9-2 ... J Weaver 61
509 (4) 5400-0 DREAMS END 24 (D,G,S) (T Price) P Bowen 10-9-0 ... M Fenton 24
510 (19) 00-401 ORSAY 21 (D,F,G,S) (D Deer) W Muir 6-8-13 ... J Reid 100
511 (10) -10003 ASSURED GAMBLE T (G,S) (Grimstead Hands) C Brittain 4-8-12 . J Murtagh 106
512 (3) -11245 FRENCH CONNECTION 22 (B,S) (P Dodd) J Berry 3-8-10 ... P Fessey 101
513 (18) 421-16 RUTLAND CHANTRY 12 (BF,D,S) (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 4-8-10 T Quinn 99
514 (8) -13801 KING DARIUS 26 (F,S) (E Perry) R Hannon 3-8-9 ... R Hughes 98
515 (16) 162030 CRYSTAL FALLS 10 (C,F,G) (C Stevens) T Easterby 5-8-8 ... K Darley 106
516 (9) 231354 LEMON BRIDGE 14 (D,G) (M Myers) J Hale 3-8-5 ... M Henry 87
517 (17) 0/3-40 FINAL TRIAL 12 (Mollers Racing) G Wragg 4-8-4 ... M Hills 50
518 (20) 000-00 SHINEROLLA 12 (F,G) (Mr & Mrs R Green) C Parker 6-8-4 ... Dean McKeown 102
519 (2) 214506 LEGAL ISSUE 21 (C,D,F,G,S) (B Valentine) J Jefferson 6-8-3 ... L Charnock 89
520 (1) 406032 MASTER BEVELED 22 (V,C,F,G,S) (Mrs E Williams) P Evans 6-8-3 .. J F Egan 112

BETTING: 6-1 Muhtafel, 9-1 Alkateb, Rutland Chantry, 10-1 Himself, Orsay, Premier Generation, 12-1 Mundo Raro, 14-1 Assured Gamble, French Connection, Master Beveled, Scattergun, 16-1 Crystal Falls, King Darius, 20-1 others.

1997: INFATUATION 4-8-11 J Weaver (16-1) Lady Herries 20 ran

FORM FOCUS Scattergun 28l 14th of 20 to Greek Palace in handicap at Ascot (1m 4f, good to soft). Premier Generation 7¾l 7th of 14 to Rokeby Bowl in handicap at York (1m 3f 195yd, firm); previously ¾l 2nd of 9 to Mister Benjamin in handicap at Ascot (1m 2f, good to firm). Muhtafel 2¼l 3rd of 12 to Infatuation in handicap at Newmarket (1m 2f, good to firm) with Lemon Bridge (levels) 4¼l 4th. Bawsian 5½l 6th of 12 to Supreme Sound in handicap at York (1m 2f 85yd, firm). Alconleigh 23l 15th of 16 to Tom Dougal in 3yo handicap at York (7f 202yd, good). Himself beat Captain's Log neck in 10-runner handicap at Newcastle (1m 2f 32yd, good). Mundo Raro beat Razer 2l in 10-runner maiden stakes at Pontefract (1m 4yd, good to firm). Dreams End 75l (9th of 21 to Tuning in handicap at York (1m 5f 194yd, firm). Orsay beat Infatuation ¾l in 10-runner handicap at Sandown (1m 2f 7yd, good to firm) with Alkateb (3lb better off) 1l 3rd. Assured Gamble 4½l 3rd of 11 to Montecristo in handicap at Epsom (1m 4f 10yd, soft). French Connection 3½l 5th of 8 to Brave Reward in 3yo handicap at Chester (1m 2f 75yd, good); previously 2¼l 4th of 10 to Floraz in 3yo handicap at Newmarket (1m, firm) with Himself (3lb worse off) 5l 8th. Rutland Chantry 19l 6th of 11 to Nautical Star in amateur handicap at Epsom (1m 4f 10yd, good to firm). King Darius beat Silvertown 1l in 13-runner 3yo handicap at Windsor (1m 3f 135yd, firm). Crystal Falls 14l 8th of 14 to Karasi in handicap at York (1m 5f 194yd, good). Final Trial 30l last of 9 to Profiler in maiden stakes at Ripon (1m 4f, good). Shinerolla 7¾l 10th of 11 to Quiet Venture in handicap at Newcastle (7f, good to firm). Legal Issue 7½l 5th of 13 to Hollow Haze in handicap at Wolverhampton (1m 100yd, Aw, fibresand). Master Beveled 5l 2nd of 8 to Totem Dancer in amateur handicap at Chester (1m 4f 66yd, good).

FRENCH CONNECTION will appreciate any cut in the ground and can beat Himself

4.45 POLYPIPE PLC FLYING CHILDERS STAKES C4
(Group II: 2-Y-O: £28,880: 5f) (13 runners)

601 (8) 2 BORROMINI 23 (Mrs J Magnier & M Tabor) A P O'Brien (Ire) 8-12 J Murtagh -
602 (5) 42010 CABALLERO 20 (F) (Sheikh M al-Maktoum) C Brittain 8-12 ... P Robinson 91
603 (9) 110431 INYA LAKE 43 (CD,G,S) (G Marty) M Channon 8-12 ... T Quinn 69
604 (3) 020114 LIGHT THE ROCKET 24 (D,F,G) (M Mulholland) R Hannon 8-12 Dane O'Neill 89
605 (6) 011031 RED PRAIRIE 24 (D,F,S) (T Neill) M Bell 8-12 ... M Fenton 85
606 (2) 13246 SHEER VIKING 24 (D,S) (R Arculli) B Hills 8-12 ... M Hills 82
607 (10) 112030 SPEEDY JAMES 23 (D,G,S) (Lucayan Stud) J Berry 8-12 ... J Reid 100
608 (1) 625322 TRINITY 9 (J Woods) M Brittain 8-12 ... K Darley 79
609 (12) 214341 DAMALIS 11 (D,F,S) (L Ferguson) E Alston 8-7 ... L Charnock 93
610 (4) 21 ELHIDA 46 (G) (H al-Maktoum) M Tregoning 8-7 ... R Hills 89
611 (13) 435044 POLLY MILLS 17 (D,S) (Mrs H Raw) P Evans 8-7 ... J F Egan 62
612 (11) 011325 SAPHIRE 24 (D,S) (Mrs M Rogers) C Booth 8-7 ... J Weaver 93
613 (7) 3154 TURTLE'S RISING 28 (D,F) (Total (Bloodstock) Ltd) B Meehan 8-7 J Fortune 64

BETTING: 7-2 Elhida, 9-2 Speedy James, 7-1 Inya Lake, Sheer Viking, 8-1 Red Prairie, 10-1 Caballero, Damalis, 12-1 others.

1997: LAND OF DREAMS 8-7 D Holland (15-8 fav) M Johnston 7 ran

FORM FOCUS Borromini 1l 2nd of 10 to Wish List in 2yo maiden stakes at Tipperary (5f, firm). Caballero 7¼l 9th of 12 to Orpen in 2yo group 1 stakes at Deauville (6f, good to soft), previously beat Diggit 2l in 6-runner 2yo stakes at Windsor (6f, firm). Inya Lake beat Amazing Dream 1l in 9-runner 2yo group 3 stakes at Goodwood (5f, good) with Speedy James (5lb better off) 1½l 3rd. Light The Rocket 5l 4th of 15 to Danzan in 2yo listed stakes at Deauville (5f, good to soft) with Saphire (2lb better off) 5¾l 5th. Red Prairie beat Trinity (levels) 1½l in 7-runner 2yo stakes (listed) at York (5f, firm). Sheer Viking 7½l 5th of 8 to Josr Algarhoud in 2yo group 2 stakes at York (6f, firm), previously 2½l 4th of 6 to Bertolini in 2yo group 3 stakes at Newmarket (6f, firm). Speedy James 16l last of 17 to Lochangel in group 1 stakes at York (5f, firm). Trinity 5l 2nd of 6 to Lujain in novice stakes at York (6f, good). Damalis beat Miss Fit 1½l in 5-runner 2yo stakes at Ripon (5f, good to soft). Elhida beat Kalidasa ¾l in 6-runner 2yo maiden fillies at Goodwood (6f, good), previously 1½l 2nd of 10 to Mythical Girl in 2yo maiden fillies at Newmarket (6f, firm). Polly Mills 1¾l 4th of 6 to Angie Baby in 2yo stakes at Lingfield (5f, firm), previously 11l 4th of 6 to Wince in 2yo fillies stakes at Chester (6f 18yd, good). Turtle's Rising 5¼l 4th of 7 to Amazing Dream in 2yo fillies listed stakes at Newbury (5f 34yd, good to firm), previously 5¾l 5th of 6 to Giffoine in 2yo novice stakes at Folkestone (5f, firm).

The form of INYA LAKE's impressive victory in the Molecomb is hard to fault

5.15 FESTIVAL EXPRESS NURSERY HANDICAP
(2-Y-O: £5,439: 6f) (22 runners)

1 (12) 31 ASTONISHED 17 (S) (D Brotherton) Mrs J Ramsden 9-7 ... J Fortune 64
2 (8) 541351 RED CHARGER 24 (D,F,G) (Geoff Carr) D Nicholls 9-5 ... Alex Greaves 65
3 (7) 2250 PEPPERDINE 25 (P Savill) W Jarvis 9-3 ... J Reid 65
4 (22) 065 BE IN LOVE 17 (J Sayer) R Hannon 9-3 ... Dane O'Neill 35
5 (18) 303 LETHAL HOPE 59 (S Al Homeizi) J Noseda 9-2 ... T Quinn 61
6 (16) 4044 FLITE OF LIFE 12 (Mrs I White) W Muir 9-1 ... J Weaver 63
7 (10) 444146 SANTANDRE 15 (G) (G Lloyd) R Hollinshead 9-1 ... N Callan (5) 72
8 (6) 600 ALASTAIR SMELLIE 17 (W Gredley) B Hills 9-0 ... M Hills 68
9 (20) 225456 ROSE'S TREASURE 14 (V,C,S) (J Keel) B Rothwell 8-13 ... M Fenton 81
10 (13) 464 ASCARI 22 (V) (Bernstein, Shaw, Williams & White) P Harris 8-12 .. K Darley 68
11 (21) 5330 SHOOT THE RAPIDS 24 (D Bocock) R Hannon 8-9 ... R Hughes 55
12 (13) 261302 HADEQA 8 (B,D,F) (Allen Belaying Badly) P Evans 8-9 ... J F Egan 62
13 (19) 410340 COLLEGE MUSIC 11 (S) (M Brittain) M Brittain 8-8 ... D Merragh (5) 67
14 (2) 606 REACTIVE 11 (C Bigley Partnership Ltd) N Littmoden 8-6 ... R Lappin 50
15 (14) 40023 MONTAGUE TIGG 12 (BF) (Sox) N Tinkler 8-5 ... C Lowther 72
16 (9) 10540 BALLINA LAD 34 (S) (M Browne) J FitzGerald 8-5 ... R Ffrench 57
17 (11) 202162 BODFARI ANNA 11 (B,D,G) (Bodfari Stud Ltd) M W Easterby 6-2 ... G Parkin 65
18 (17) 5502 CRYSTAL LASS 7 (B) (White House Racing Club) J Balding 8-1 J Edmunds 56
19 (15) 5460 LILLIAGEM 11 (C Spence) M W Easterby 1-13 ... L Charnock 73
20 (4) 056 PANDJOJOE 17 (J Dixon) R Fahey 7-13 ... R Winston (3) 65
21 (1) 636 ANNANDALE 40 (C McGhee) R Fahey 7-12 ... P. Hanagan (7) 43
22 (5) 404605 BUNTY 6 (J Purcell) C Dwyer 7-11 ... G Bardwell 63

BETTING: 7-1 Astonished, 8-1 Red Charger, Hadeqa, Bodfari Anna, 10-1 Santandre, Montague Tigg, 12-1 Pepperdine, Flite of Life, 14-1 others

1997: FAR REMOVED 8-8 J Fortune (5-2 fav) Mrs J Ramsden 16 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
S bin Suroor	11	37	29.7	R Hills	17	97	17.5
H Cecil	23	98	23.5	M Hills	31	182	17.0
J Gosden	32	146	21.9	R Hughes	8	55	14.5
M Stoute	19	91	20.9	R Winston	5	36	13.9
G Wragg	10	50	20.0	A Mackay	8	62	12.9
M Ryan	4	22	18.2	S D Williams	3	24	12.5

GOODWOOD

THUNDERER
2.15 Warningford
2.45 Mutamam
3.20 Squire Corrie
3.55 Thornby Park
4.30 King Adam
5.00 Gedy Red

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) — SIS
DRAW: 6F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.15 MGM ASSURANCE RATED HANDICAP BBC1
(£9,486: 7f) (9 runners)

1 (7) 10160- NEUWEST 350 (D,F,G) (P Green) J Akehurst 6-9-7 ... S Sanders 81
2 (1) 010201 ROCK FALCON 14 (B,CD,F,G,S) (E Penser) Lady Herries 5-9-4 ... A Clark 103
3 (2) 025106 WARNINGFORD 10 (V,D,G) (Barford Bloodstock II) J Fanshawe 4-9-1 K Fallon 121
4 (8) 215405 CARRANITA 41 (C,D,F,G,S) (K Bleke & Mrs R Dawes) B Palling 6-9-0 T Sprake 95
5 (9) 1-3558 HOH CHI MIN 64 (G,S) (D Allport) M Bell 3-8-10 ... R Mullen (3) 118
6 (3) 211000 VOLONTIERS 10 (D,G,S) (Commoners) P Harris 3-8-10 ... A Culhane 121
7 (4) 1321-0 AL MUALLIM 14 (D,F,G) (Al Muallim Partnership) J W Payne 4-6-10 G Carter 100
8 (6) 004300 OMAHA CITY 14 (CD,F,G) (B Gubby Ltd) B Gubby 4-8-10 ... Paul Eddery 123
9 (5) 314600 NO EXTRAS 14 (C,D,F,G,S) (K Higson) G L Moore 8-8-7 ... J Quinn 132

BETTING: 7-2 Rock Falcon, 4-1 Al Muallim, 6-1 Carranita, 7-1 Warningford, Omaha City, 8-1 Hoh Chi Min, No Extras, 10-1 others.

1997: LAW COMMISSION 7-8-9 S Drowne (4-1 jt-fav) D Elsworth 9 ran

FORM FOCUS Neuwest 25l 24th of 25 to Jo Mell in handicap at Ascot (7f, good to firm). Rock Falcon beat Swiss Law ¾l in 12-runner handicap at Goodwood (7f, good to firm) with Al Muallim (5lb better off) 6½l 7th, Omaha City (7lb better off) 8l 9th and No Extras (7lb better off) 8¾l 10th. Warningford 3¾l 6th of 18 to Lone Piper in handicap at York (6f, good) with Volontiers (3lb better off) 4¾l 11th. Carranita 2¼l 5th of 6 to Likely Story in stakes (listed) at Chester (6f 18yd, good). Hoh Chi Min 6¼l 6th of 12 to Fizzed in 3yo fillies handicap at Ascot (1m, good to soft).

ROCK FALCON is probably best over this trip and can take this from Carranita

2.45 MOTOR CIRCUIT 50TH ANNIVERSARY SELECT STAKES (Group III: £22,450: 1m 1f 192yd) (4 runners) BBC1

1 (1) -62015 WINTER ROMANCE 35 (D,S) (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 5-9-3 ... K Fallon 111
2 (3) 500036 PRINCE OF DENIAL 14 (D,F,G,S) (J Gudin) D Arbuthnot 4-9-0 ... G Carter 115
3 (2) /115-5 SASURU 27 (D,F,G,S) (A Oppenheimer) G Wragg 5-9-0 ... Paul Eddery -
4 (4) 3-2011 MUTAMAM 35 (D,F,G,S) (H al-Maktoum) A Stewart 3-8-16 ... M Roberts 128

BETTING: 1-2 Mutamam, 9-2 Sasuru, 11-2 Winter Romance, 10-1 Prince Of Denial

1997: FAHRIS 3-8-7 R Cochrane (10-3) B Hanbury 5 ran

FORM FOCUS Prince Of Denial 6l 6th of 9 to Annus Mirabilis in group 3 stakes at Windsor (1m 2f 7yd, good to firm). Sasuru 5½l 5th of 11 to Running Stag in group 3 stakes at Deauville (1m 2f, good to soft). Mutamam beat Teapot Row 2½l in 6-runner group 3 stakes at Haydock (1m 2f 120yd, good) with Prince Of Denial (6lb better off) 3½l 3rd and Winter Romance (7lb better off) 8¾l 5th.

SASURU needed the run last time and could surprise if returning to his best

3.20 CONSOLATION STEWARDS' CUP HANDICAP BBC1
(£11,674: 6f) (24 runners)

1 (22) 100006 SPEED ON 7 (V,F,S) (P Deal) H Candy 5-9-10 ... C Rutter 96
2 (21) 100350 JAYANNPEE 14 (C,D,F,G,S) (I Balding) I Balding 7-9-8 ... Martin Dwyer 90
3 (8) 60355- DOUBLE BOUNCE 312 (D,F,G) (Mrs P Scott-Dunn) H Candy 8-9-7 ... A Clark 94
4 (16) 221-05 CLEF OF SILVER 14 (D,F) (Silvio Clef Racing Venture) W Jarvis 3-9-6 R Mullen (3) 86
5 (20) -33003 MR BERGERAC 14 (D,F,G,S) (P John) B Palling 7-9-6 ... G Faulkner (3) 93
6 (6) 5-13 LONG SIEGE 32 (BF,D,F) (Mrs D Snowden) J Gosden 3-9-5 ... D Urbina 83
7 (10) -80004 OGGI 6 (CD,F,G,S) (Skylace Racing Ltd) P Makin 7-9-5 ... S Sanders 82
8 (1) -40000 STONE OF DESTINY 14 (G) (P Heath) B Meehan 3-9-3 ... M Tebbutt 87
9 (3) 101200 DELTA SOLEIL 14 (D,F,G) (American Quartet) V Soane 6-9-1 ... K Fallon 91
10 (14) 066114 RIFIFI 14 (BF,CD,F,G) (Brooknight Guarding Ltd) R Ingram 5-9-1 P Fredericks (7) 90
11 (4) 513235 IRIS MAY 24 (F) (J Brown & M Dennie) J Berry 3-9-0 ... G Carter 87
12 (23) 251043 BROUGHTONS TURMOIL 49 (F,G) (R Marlow) B Millman 9-8-13 ... T Sprake 97
13 (15) -22510 UPLIFTING 24 (F) (G Alberum) L Cottrell 3-8-10 ... M Roberts 92
14 (2) 503360 YOUNG BIGWIG 17 (CD,F,G,S) (Miss N Thesiger) D Chapman 4-8-16 A Culhane 105
15 (13) 334025 IVORY DAWN 14 (CD,F,G) (D Ivory) K Ivory 4-8-9 ... N Pollard (5) 102
16 (24) 016211 CAUDA EQUINA 5 (D,F,G,S) (M Foy) M Channon 4-8-9 (4ex) ... J Carroll 101
17 (7) 324100 ROISIN SPLENDOUR 9 (S) (Brightwalton Racing) S Dow 3-8-8 ... N Day 93
18 (18) 433332 PEPPIATT 4 (BF,D,F) (N Reddington) D Nicholls 4-8-8 ... F Norton 98
19 (11) 0-2040 LA PETITE FUSEE 38 (D,F,G,S) (P Saunders) R O'Sullivan 7-8-7 R Havlin (3) 90
20 (12) 215123 CARLTON 24 (B,D,F,S) (City Slickers) G Lewis 4-8-3 ... Paul Eddery 99
21 (17) 000022 SQUIRE CORRIE 7 (B,BF,D,F,G,S) (Miss N Thesiger) D Chapman 6-8-3 J Quinn 119
22 (5) 033624 RUM LAD 9 (D,F,S) (B Shaw) J J Quinn 4-8-2 ... J Lowe 100
23 (9) 1/00 POLISH LEGION 82 (F) (R J P J Partnership) J Akehurst 5-8-1 ... Dale Gibson 93
24 (19) 120000 SCISSOR RIDGE 14 (CD,F) (D Smith) J Bridger 6-7-10 ... R Brisland (7) 101

Long handicap: Scissor Ridge 7-7

BETTING: 9-1 Oggi, 10-1 Cauda Equina, Rififi, Squire Corrie, 12-1 Clef Of Silver, Mr Bergerac, Peppiatt, 14-1 Iris May, 16-1 Broughtons Turmoil, Carlton, Ivory Dawn, Jayannpee, Rum Lad, Speed On, Young Bigwig, 20-1 others.

1997: WILDWOOD FLOWER 4-9-12 Dane O'Neill (20-1) R Hannon 29 ran

FORM FOCUS Double Bounce 2l 5th of 25 to Primo Lara in handicap at Redcar (6f, good) with Mr Bergerac (1lb better off) 2¾l 9th and Young Bigwig (7lb better off) 15l 24th. Mr Bergerac ¾l 3rd of 18 to Masha-Il in handicap at Goodwood (6f, good to firm) with Rififi (1lb better off) ½l 4th, Clef Of Silver (3lb better off) 1¾l 5th, Jayannpee (4lb better off) 2½l 7th, Scissor Ridge (5lb better off) 3¾l 14th and Delta Soleil (6lb better off) 7l 16th. Long Siege 3¼l 3rd of 5 to Always Alight in stakes 0-85 at Ayr (6f, soft). Oggi 3¾l 4th of 7 to Faraway Lass in stakes 0-85 at Haydock (6f, good). Stone Of Destiny 13l 9th of 17 to Spanish Fern in 3yo handicap at Newmarket (7f, good to firm). Iris May 4½l 6th of 16 to Night Shot in 3yo handicap at York (5f, firm) with Uplifting (2lb better off) 8¾l 13th. Broughtons Turmoil 2¾l 3rd of 16 to Sugarfoot in handicap at Ascot (1m, good to firm). Ivory Dawn 1¾l 5th of 12 to Jocasta in fillies handicap at Nottingham (6f 15yd, good to firm). Cauda Equina beat Hard To Figure short head in 18-runner handicap at Bath (5f 161yd, good). Roisin Splendour 9½l last of 12 to Golden Fortune in at Salisbury (6f 212yd, good). Peppiatt 2½l 2nd of 14 to Family Man in handicap at Lingfield (7f, good to soft). La Petite Fusee 15l last of 12 to Levelled in handicap at Brighton (5f 213yd, good to firm). Carlton 1¾l 3rd of 17 to Myttons Mistake in handicap at Kempton (7f, good to firm). Squire Corrie short head 2nd of 12 to Matadente in handicap at Haydock (5f, good) with Speed On (4lb better off) 1¾l 6th. Rum Lad 3¼l 4th of 24 to Royal Result in handicap at York (6f 214yd, good). Polish Legion 6½l 11th of 19 to Carlton (17lb worse off) in handicap at Windsor (6f, good to firm).

CARLTON is a progressive type who may be on the right side of the handicapper

3.55 HIGHLAND SPRING / ROA HANDICAP (£7,449: 2m) (8 runners)

1 (7) 56-100 THORNBY PARK 86 (C,S) (Appleby Lodge Stud) J Dunlop 4-9-10 ... G Carter 89
2 (6) 300000 LITTLE ACORN 50 (B) (A Simpson) S C Williams 4-9-5 ... S Sanders 89
3 (2) 306314 HIGHLY PRIZED 21 (F) (Mrs M O'Kelly) J King 4-9-3 ... S Drowne [illegible]
4 (1) 410505 LEGAL LUNCH 10 (S) (Alleged Partnership) P Harris 3-9-0 ... A Culhane 91
5 (5) 636651 BARDON HILL BOY 15 (D,F) (Miss M Breslin) B Hanbury 6-8-13 ... K Fallon 96
6 (3) 1420-3 SHAHRUR 112 (S) (Mrs E Kernan) G L Moore 6-8-13 ... J Quinn 76
7 (4) 028150 BOWCLIFFE COURT 15 (D,F,S) (A Spence) J Akehurst 6-8-13 ... Paul Eddery 89
8 (8) 416204 DUVO 12 (F) (J Harrison) C Horgan 4-8-9 ... A Clark 94

BETTING: 3-1 Bardon Hill Boy, 7-2 Duvo, 5-1 Highly Prized, 6-1 Legal Lunch, 7-1 Little Acorn, 8-1 others

1997: HIGH INTRIGUE 3-8-6 W Ryan (7-2) H Cecil 8 ran

4.30 ROYAL NAVY MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,761: 1m) (4 runners)

1 (1) FRIENDLY ALLIANCE (The Twitchell Partnership) R Flower 9-0 ... S Drowne -
2 (2) HOME OFFICE (K Abdulla) Mrs A Perrett 9-0 ... A Clark -
3 (3) 22 KING ADAM 22 (Lord Weinstock) Sir M Stoute 9-0 ... K Fallon [illegible]
4 (4) ZINDABAD (A Ali) B Hanbury 9-0 ... M Roberts -

BETTING: 4-9 King Adam, 5-2 Zindabad, 12-1 Home Office, 25-1 Friendly Alliance.

1997: WALES 9-0 R Cochrane (4-9 fav) P Cole 13 ran

5.00 CITY OF PORTSMOUTH MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,852: 1m 1f 192yd) (11 runners)

1 (7) 2-25 EDWARDIAN 92 (BF) (K Abdulla) Mrs A Perrett 9-0 ... T Sprake 77
2 (1) 6 EMERALD ISLE 12 (Sheikh Mohammed) L Cumani 9-0 ... O Urbina 11
3 (11) 222 GEDY RED 35 (BF) (L Gaucci) H Cecil 9-0 ... K Fallon [illegible]
4 (8) 00-060 MARAHILL LAD 64 (L Sheridan) P Howling 9-0 ... J Quinn 35
5 (3) 50- MUTAFARIJ 332 (H al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 9-0 ... J Carroll 59
6 (5) 6-0 RISING MANE 40 (D Windebank) Miss G Kelleway 9-0 ... P Fredericks (7) -
7 (4) 65 TOMASZEWSKI 10 (Mrs P Harris) P Harris 9-0 ... A Culhane -
8 (2) 0-0 YAJTAHED 8 (N Clark) G L Moore 9-0 ... F Norton 33
9 (10) 4 HARLESTONE LANE 164 (J Dunlop) J Dunlop 8-9 ... G Carter 53
10 (9) 030420 SILVER SUN 23 (C Harper) D Elsworth 8-9 ... N Pollard (5) 86
11 (6) 00 SILVER WEDDING 33 (Mrs D Haynes) Lady Herries 8-9 ... A Clark -

BETTING: 2-1 Gedy Red, 5-2 Edwardian, 4-1 Emerald Isle, 8-1 Silver Sun, 14-1 Silver Wedding, 16-1 others.

1997: SILVERY 8-9 R Ffrench (16-1) J Toller 10 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
M Stoute	27	101	26.7	K Fallon	17	94	18.1
H Cecil	26	108	24.1	R Havlin	3	18	16.7
E Dunlop	10	47	21.3	N Pollard	3	30	10.0
G Wragg	8	41	19.5	J Quinn	11	110	10.0
J Gosden	27	144	18.8	Only qualifiers			

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Musselburgh (first race 2.10), Nottingham (2.00), Plumpton (2.20)
TUESDAY: Sandown Park (2.15), Yarmouth (2.05), Sedgefield (2.25)
WEDNESDAY: Beverley (2.25), Sandown Park (2.15), Yarmouth (2.05)
THURSDAY: Ayr (2.00), Newbury (BBC, 2.10), Yarmouth (2.20)
FRIDAY: Ayr (2.00), Newbury (BBC, 2.10), Huntingdon (2.20)
SATURDAY: Ayr (C4, 1.50), Catterick (2.10), Newbury (BBC, 2.00), Wolverhampton (7.00), Carlisle (2.05), Market Rasen (2.15)

Flat meetings in bold

REALISE YOUR DREAM OF OWNING A RACEHORSE

The Official British Horseracing Board 2 day seminar "The Thrill of Racehorse Ownership" - is essential if you wish to become a successful owner. You get an impartial, informed view of racehorse ownership. Become an owner within a year, and the fee is refunded.

Reply now: very limited numbers.

RING 01753 897211 FOR A FREE COLOUR BROCHURE.

NEXT SEMINAR 28 & 29 SEPTEMBER IN NEWMARKET.
• GO TO A LEADING TRAINER'S YARD
• VISIT THE NATIONAL STUD.
• INCLUDES A FREE AFTERNOON AT NEWMARKET RACES

RAPID RACELINE
09066 168+ COMMENTARY RESULTS
DONCASTER 101 201
GOODWOOD 102 202
BANGOR 103 203
WORCESTER 104 204
IRISH 120 220
FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

PICK UP A FREE £20 BET
FOR FIRST TIME TELEPHONE CALLERS STAKING £40 OR MORE, USING SWITCH, DELTA OR SOLO BANK OR BUILDING SOCIETY DEBIT CARDS.

PERTEMPS ST. LEGER
1 mile, 6½ furlongs, Doncaster 3.40pm, Live on CH4 TV.
5/2 Nedawi | 8/1 Sunshine Street
3/1 The Glow Worm | 10/1 Dark Moondancer
4/1 Sadian | 25/1 Eco Friendly
7/1 High And Low | 100/1 Ardleigh Charmer
15/2 Ta-Lim
Each way One Fifth the odds a place 1, 2, 3. Prices subject to fluctuation. Available up to 3.25pm. Tattersalls Rule 4(c) may apply. Non runner - no bet.

PORCELANOSA HANDICAP
1 mile, Doncaster 3.05pm, Live on CH4 TV.
5/1 Risque Lady | 10/1 Weet-A-Minute
11/2 Right Wing | 11/1 Abajany
6/1 Silk St John | 16/1 Tertium
7/1 Strazo | 20/1 Bergen
15/2 High Spirits | 20/1 Kayo
8/1 Musalsal | 20/1 Tom Dougal
10/1 Golden Dice
Each way One Quarter the odds a place 1, 2, 3. Prices subject to fluctuation. Available up to 2.50pm. Tattersalls Rule 4(c) may apply. Non runner - no bet.

LATEST WILLIAM HILL ODDS ON TELETEXT CH4 P601/602/603

RING TODAY - BET TODAY
0800 100 230
(Minimum total investment per call £10. Over 18's only.)
*Free bet is a £20 Straight Forecast on the Doncaster 3.05pm today. (Please place your bet and make your free bet selection within the same call.)
DELTA SWITCH SOLO
William HILL
TO OPEN A CREDIT ACCOUNT FREEPHONE 0800 289 892. WILLIAM HILL RULES APPLY. PRICES SUBJECT TO FLUCTUATION

هكذا من الأهل

هدية من الأصل

Once dismissed as a mere front man, Saeed bin Suroor is making his detractors recant

Desert transplant gaining esteem in warmer climate

The only Arabic word I know is *waheed*, which means one. It is, however, the most important word in the world, if you follow the ways of Islam or of racing. Saeed bin Suroor's English is better than my Arabic, but when he first came to England, the advantage was minimal. He was perceived as an Arab, correctly enough, and as an interloper who knew nothing about racing. Incorrectly.

The fact that he won a number of very good races only heightened the breezy contempt that racing held for him. He was seen as a sheikh's folly, the latest wacky manifestation of sheikh's pride. But then the whole Godolphin operation was seen in that light.

Bin Suroor came from Dubai to train for Godolphin. Godolphin was, from the moment of its conception, the heart and soul of Sheikh Mohammed's racing operation. Bin Suroor, it was thought, was there simply because Sheikh Mohammed wanted the name of a Dubai national on the trainer's licence.

Bin Suroor's operation swung into serious business in 1995, and picked up such baubles as the Derby, the King George, the Arc, the Oaks, the St Leger and the Eclipse. And still bin Suroor was regarded as a figurehead. As if Sheikh Mohammed had said, in the immortal words of Eric Morecambe: "I'm workin' 'im with me foot."

The fact that bin Suroor was a former polimeman did not help. He was seen as a flatfoot, evenin'-alling about Dubai who was, for some extraordinary reason, plonked in charge of the world's most expensive thoroughbreds on a whim of one of the world's richest men.

The seasons roll on by, and Godolphin continues to turn out winners. And bin Suroor has acquired a great deal more English, and Godolphin has acquired a great many more glittering prizes. And bin Suroor has — slowly, slowly, because racing is not the sort of world that changes its mind about anything in a hurry — been acquiring that rare thing, respect.

The 1,000 Guineas this year, the King George, and five winners at Royal Ascot. Season after season, Godolphin gets it right. Swain winning the King George two seasons running: that takes a great horse, but also it requires a great feat of training. You can't duck that. And always the figure of bin Suroor himself, now commanding something to go with new-found respect — the beginnings of a real affection. It is a response to his quite extraordinary kindness of nature, the most obvious thing about him.

Godolphin operates, in the summer months, at Moulton Paddocks in Newmarket. The location says something about Godolphin, about bin Suroor. They are way up the Bury Road, a good mile and more from the big stables you find closer to the clock-tower.

There is a serenity there that you don't find in town and there is none of the banging and cussing you get around most training yards, a cheery — you would have thought essential — sound in the training of the racehorse. A different system operates here, with grooms and work-riders, rather than lads filling both functions. And then bin Suroor coming out to greet me, as if my arrival were the nicest thing that had happened to him in years.

This is a big weekend for Godolphin, who have a runner in the St Leger. They had three entries, but one of these, Sea Wave, who may yet outdo Swain as the season's star, is now directed at the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in Paris in October. Nedawi is now the only Godolphin horse in the Doncaster classic.

Seven other horses leave the yard this weekend to contest group races in France, Ireland and the United States. Sea Wave has a prep race for the Arc in France: Swain goes for a big race in Ireland. The season is swinging toward its climax, and Godolphin aims to be peaking at the same time. And you should have seen the grey two-year old, Aljabr. One for the Classics next season, no doubt.

Bin Suroor is not a man of swagger and pride and boasting, any more than he is a cringing Uriah Heep figure. The predominant impression is of a man rather splendidly at ease with himself. He was a policeman all right, in the way that a young army officer is a soldier. The police force has a different status in Dubai: officer class and all that. The odd English army officer has gone into training without raising gales of hearty laughter.

And as a policeman, he was a very fine racehorse trainer: up at four every day to spend three hours with the horses before going to work, then straight back to the stables when his official stint was over. He acquired a name for himself, an increasingly hefty fish in a smallish pond. But it is a pond that attracts the notice of the most powerful man in world racing.

Bin Suroor's good sense, good results, tremendous decency of bearing, above all his soul-deep horsemanship — naturally, Sheikh Mohammed was interested in him. And found, I suspect, that rare thing: a man to complement himself. And I have a feeling that this is one of the secrets at the heart of the Godolphin operation.

Sheikh Mohammed is as much a horseman as any one in Newmarket, a man of blazing intensities, burning ambitions. Bin Suroor shares the horsemanship, but his ambition takes an altogether gentler form. "I try to be quiet," he said. "I do not shout at jockeys, at horses. You lose today. You win tomorrow."

His gentleness of manner is as essential to Godolphin as Sheikh Mohammed's desire, and his millions. As we walked around the yard, meeting gorgeous horse after gorgeous horse, every one of which would be the stable star at some yard back down the road, again and again he threw in the phrase "my opinion". "Very nice, very nice, but I think he will be better at a mile, my opinion." Meaning not cast-in-stone Godolphin policy. The other two-word phrase that comes into conversation a good deal is "the boss".

No need to ask who that is. "No, he is easy. Because he listens." Most trainers are monarchs of all they survey: not bin Suroor. It is a team, Godolphin, they are all tremendously eager to stress that, including Sheikh Mohammed. If this were American football, bin Suroor would be the quarterback, the man who gets the football and distributes it to the fleet-footed receivers or the mighty backs. Sheikh Mohammed is the bloke on the sidelines with the clipboard and the earphones. Both are essential, but no one is under any illusion about who makes the final decision.

It is not the way that trainers in England operate — but that is is precisely why Sheikh Mohammed set up Godolphin: because he wanted to take control of his racing destiny.

The best Godolphin horses go to Dubai for the winter sun, returning, with the house martins that buzz over Moulton Paddocks throughout the season, in the spring. "One month in Dubai, and I miss it here. Newmarket is my home now." And his home is an absolute powerhouse of might and money and ambition, but you wouldn't know it. A sleepy backwater; an unexpectedly tranquil place, an unexpectedly tranquil man. And horses to die for: horses to die for looking over every door. "We try," bin Suroor said, "to be a little bit the best." Number one.

MICHAEL POWELL

Bin Suroor and one of his charges at the headquarters of Godolphin's phenoroenally successful operation in Newmarket

Sea Wave tests the water in Prix Niel

By Chris McGrath

NOTHING so inspires Godolphin as a new frontier, but that spirit is motivating them in a literal sense this weekend. While they leave Nedawi to mind the shop in the Pertemps St Leger, they send raiders to all points of the racing world's compass.

Swain flies the royal blue flag at Leopardstown today, while Daylami contests the Man O' War Stakes at Belmont Park in New York. Tomorrow, Sea Wave stakes his claim to favouritism for the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in the Prix Niel, one of three trials over the Longchamp course and distance.

Though Sea Wave appeared to have the St Leger at his mercy, Godolphin suddenly decided upon an audacious change of plan. In running away with the Great Voltigeur Stakes at York, the Sadler's Wells colt had confirmed that he is so progressive over a mile and a half that he might well make an Arc horse. Sooner than submit him to a tiring race over a longer trip at Doncaster, Godolphin elected to give bim a crack at the top French three-year-olds in the Niel.

Two, Dream Well and Croco Rouge, are stablemates in the care of Pascal Bary, who initially rated Croco Rouge the better but was made to think again when Dream Well beat him in the Prix du Jockey Club — then romped home in the Irish Derby. Bary warns both will need the run after their breaks, however, and neither will be subjected to a hard race.

There is a contrasting urgency to the need for Sea Wave to prove himself in the highest grade and, with Central Park to guarantee a sensible pace, he may be the most plausible betting proposition, last year's defeat of Peintre Celebre baving illustrated the perils of these tactical trials.

Bahr represents Godolphin in the Prix Vermeille, though the unbeaten Zainta is likely to be a tough opponent. Bahr is at least reported to be working well, likewise Predappio, who makes his comeback in the Prix Foy.

LONGCHAMP TOMORROW BBC2

GOING: VERY SOFT

2.05 PRIX VERMEILLE (Group I: 3-Y-O: £80,808: 1m 4f) (11 runners)

1 (4) 1212 CANTILEVER 84 (BF,C,D,G,S) (K Abdulla) Mme C Head 9-0 — O Doleuze
2 (7) 41 NATIVE JUSTICE 18 (D) (K Abdulla) A Fabre 9-0 — T Jarnet
3 (3) 3-0005 MANNSARA 22 (BF) (H H Aga Khan) A De Royer Dupre 9-0 — A Junk
4 (6) -11111 ZAINTA 22 (C,G,S) (H H Aga Khan) A De Royer Dupre 9-0 — G Mosse
5 (9) 25-431 WINONA 63 (D,G,S) (Lady Clague) J Oxx (Ire) 9-0 — J P Murtagh
6 (11) 1-2241 LEGGERA 42 (F,S) (Mrs H Focke) J Dunlop (GB) 9-0 — T Quinn
7 (5) 1-1213 BAHR 63 (BF,D,F,S) (Godolphin) S Suroor (GB) 9-0 — L Dettori
8 (8) 140403 CLOUD CASTLE 25 (S) (S Manana) C Brittain (GB) 9-0 — J Reid
9 (2) 112-31 ISLE DE FRANCE 61 (D,G,S) (M Tabor) A Fabre 9-0 — O Peslier
10 (10) -11021 BARDONECCHIA 35 (G,S) (Scuderia Villa Dasla) L Camici (It) 9-0 — V Mezzatesta
11 (11) 1-2512 BAYOURIDA 22 (G,S) (Wertheimer Brothers) C Lalton-Parias 9-0 — D Boeuf

BETTING: 4-1 Bahr, 9-2 Zainta, 11-2 Leggera, 8-1 Cantilever, Winona, Cloud Castle, 10-1 Native Justice, Isle De France, 14-1 others.

3.40 PRIX NIEL (Group II: 3-Y-O: £40,404: 1m 4f) (6 runners)

1 (3) -01431 CENTRAL PARK 28 (D,F,G1) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor (GB) 9-2 — O O'Donohoe
2 (5) 4-2111 SEA WAVE 28 (D,F,G,S) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor (GB) 9-2 — L Dettori
3 (1) 11 SAGAMIX 143 (CD,S) (J Lagardere) A Fabre 9-2 — O Peslier
4 (4) 22111 DREAM WELL 77 (CD,G,S) (Marchos Family) P Bary 9-2 — C Asmussen
5 (6) 1-2131 EPISTOLAIRE 14 (C,D,G) (Baron E de Rothschild) A Fabre 9-2 — T Jarnet
6 (2) 4-1123 CROCO ROUGE 84 (BF,C,G,S) (W Said) P Bary 9-2 — S Guillot

BETTING: 7-4 Dream Well, 11-4 Sea Wave, 7-2 Sagamix, 5-1 Croco Rouge, 14-1 Epistolaire, 20-1 Central Park

4.10 PRIX FOY (Group II: £40,404: 1m 4f) (6 runners)

1 (4) 1110-2 MAJORIEN 161 (CD,G,S) (M al-Maktoum) Mme C Head 4-9-2 — O Doleuze
2 (6) 1035-0 PREDAPPIO 169 (D,F,G,S) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor (GB) 5-9-2 — L Dettori
3 (5) 4-4411 FRAGRANT MIX 77 (C,D,F,G,S) (J Lagardere) A Fabre 4-9-2 — O Peslier
4 (1) 522152 LIMNOS 55 (D,G,S) (Niarchos Family) O Sapulchre 4-9-2 — C Asmussen
5 (3) 3-1130 DA BALDOXE 14 (CD,G,S) (F Prat) P Bary 4-9-2 — S Guillot
6 (2) -33261 KASHWAN 29 (D,G) (E Sarasola) E Lellouche 4-9-2 — D Boeuf

BETTING: 6-4 Fragrant Mix, 9-4 Majorien, 5-1 Predappio, 7-1 Limnos, 12-1 Da Baldoxe, 18-1 Kashwan.

BANGOR

THUNDERER

1.50 Lambrini Lad. 2.25 Gutteridge. 2.55 So Keen. 3.45 Rahanine Melody. 4.20 Danegold. 4.50 Petersen House.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

1.50 GORDON MYTTON HOMES JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O: £2,840: 2m 1f) (13 runners)

1 ALLEGIANCE 12F (B) G McCourt 10-10 — O Byrne
2 6P ANOTHER BEVELED 28 A P Jones 10-10 — S McNeill
3 P EDDIE ROMBO 28 R Woodhouse 10-10 — E Callaghan
4 P HEY UP MATE 28 A Bailey 10-10 — O Gallagher
5 2 LAMBRINI LAD 7 A Bailey 10-10 — S Wynne
6 LORD WARFORD 42F G Balding 10-10 — B Fenton
7 PICULA BIERE 52F (B) N Babbage 10-10 — R Thornton
8 RAJATI 124F A Streeter 10-10 — T Eley
9 TIE BREAK 16F C Mann 10-10 — C Llewellyn
10 R4 UP THE CLARETS 17 J J O'Neill 10-10 — R McGrath (3)
11 EDWARDA 108F U Pipe 10-5 — C Maude
12 PREMIERE FOULEE 18F F Jordan 10-5 — A Maguire
13 STALWART LEGION 21F J Hills 10-5 — R Widley (3)

3-1 Edwarda, 4-1 Tie Break, 5-1 Lambrini Lad, Premiere Foulee, 7-1 Up The Clarets, 12-1 Lord Warford, Stalwart Legion, 10-1 others.

2.25 BRYN-Y-PYS NOVICES CHASE (£3,501: 2m 4f 110yd) (9)

1 6-01 GUTTERIDGE 7 (V,F,G,S) P Bare 8-11-12 — G Bradley
2 PP-5 BUILDER BOY 11 S Brookshaw 8-11-6 — S Wynne
3 415/ ENDOWMENT 61F (B,BF,G) J J O'Neill 6-11-6 — P Niven
4 0-00 LITTLE COURT 33 (F) E Bevan 7-11-6 — B Fenton
5 533- NATIVE RAMBLER 110 (S) Mrs A Price 8-11-6 Mr S Blackwell
6 4023 NEWTON MIST 16 (BF) Mrs S Smith 7-11-6 — R Wilkinson (5)
7 -122 POMME SECRET 27 (B,BF,F,G,S) M Pipe 5-11-3 — C Maude
8 26P6 HENNERWOOD OAK 17 (G) R J Price 8-11-1 — C Llewellyn
9 P3-0 THE LAST MISTRESS 66 (F) G H Jones 11-11-1 Guy Lewis (3)

2-1 Pomme Secret, 5-2 Gutteridge, 5-1 Endowment, 1-1 Builder Boy, 8-1 others.

2.55 WREXHAM HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,631: 2m 4f) (10)

1 F0PY GOLDEN ARROW 728F (G,S) M Pipe 1-11-12 — C Maude
2 F5-4 FRASER CAREY 12 (V,D,F,G) J O'Shea 8-10-9 Michael Brennan
3 -012 SO KEEN 28 (C,S) A Bailey 5-10-7 — S Wynne
4 F00- FRONTIER FLIGHT 157 (D,F,G,S) P Hall 8-10-4 — O Pears
5 14/0 SUJUD 51 (D,F) M Pell 8-10-3 — B Fenton
6 4243 CHIEF MOUSE 11 (D,F,G) F Jordan 5-10-0 — A Maguire
7 63-0 ZINGIBAR 17 (V,F,G,S) J Bradley 6-10-0 — T Dascombe
8 1F61 BRITANNIA MILLS 14 (D,F,G) R J Price 7-10-0 — R Widger (7)
9 0-P0 CARIBBEAN SURFER 8 (G) P Eccles 9-10-0 — D Byrne
10 00P- REACH FOR GLORY 110 (D,F,G) Graham Richards 9-10-0 A David

3-1 Golden Arrow, 7-2 So Keen, 5-1 Britannia Mills, 8-1 Sujud, 1-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Bangor: 1.50 Allegiance, Picula Biere. 2.55 Fraser Carey. 3.45 Just Marmalade. Doncaster: 3.05 Right Wing. 4.15 Alkateb, French Connection. 5.15 Ascari, Crystal Lass. Worcester: 2.20 Slightly Special. 2.50 Rake Hey. 3.25 Crabapple Hill.

3.45 GREENALLS PUBS & RESTAURANTS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,599: 3m 110yd) (13)

1 3111 RAHANINE MELODY 21 (D,F,G) A Martin (Ire) 6-12-1 — A Maguire
2 1532 CHIEF GALE 21 (G) J O'Shea 6-10-12 — Michael Brennan
3 11-3 SANTA JET 12 (BF,D,F,S) G U Moore 7-10-10 — J Callaghan
4 101P FORT GALE 12 (D,F,G) O Duggan 7-10-9 — Mr S Stronge (7)
5 4/4- WITHYCOMBE HILL 327 R N Bevis 8-10-7 — S Wynne
6 -061 WAR WHOOP 12 (F,G) Miss L Russell 6-10-3 — R Thornton
7 54-3 BENNA BEOLA 103 J Upson 6-10-0 — J Supple
8 43-0 THE CROOKED OAK 12 J Birkett 6-10-0 — L O'Hara
9 P4F- BOSTON MAN 332 (G) R Woodhouse 7-10-0 — A O Smith
10 UF33 REEFA'S MILL 12 (D,G) P Eccles 6-10-0 — M Sharratt
11 -082 JOLLY BOAT 11 (D,F,G,S) F Jordan 11-10-0 — O Gallagher
12 -304 JUST MARMALADE 11 (B,D,G,S) W Jenks 9-10-0 — C Llewellyn
13 5P03 SHARP EMBRACE 12 (V) U Pipe 5-10-0 — G Supple (3)

3-1 Chief Gale, 7-2 Rahanine Melody, 6-1 War Whoop, 8-1 Santa Jet, 10-1 Fort Gale, Boston Man, 12-1 Reefa's Mill, 14-1 others.

4.20 PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,065: 2m 1f) (4)

1 -311 DANEGOLD 12 (CD,F,G) M Channon 6-12-0 — D Byrne
2 421- COUNTRY ORCHID 4F (G) Mrs Reveley 7-10-13 Mr A Dempsey (5)
3 -632 INDIAN JOCKEY 33 (B,D,F,G,S) M Pipe 6-10-13 — C Maude
4 -214 GOING FOR BROKE 11 (BF,CD,F,G) C Mann 4-10-6 — D Gallagher

2-1 Country Orchid, 5-2 Indian Jockey, 3-1 Danegold, 7-2 Going For Broke

4.50 DICK FRANCIS NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,827: 2m 1f) (11)

1 12-1 PETERSEN HOUSE 0 (D,F,S) D M Moore 4-11-1 — J Callaghan
2 320- CASTLE CLEAR 178 (S) Mrs U Reveley 5-10-10 — P Niven
3 0/P FESTIVAL 11 A P Jones 5-10-10 — S McNeill
4 00/3 MOLONYS DRAM 11 1 Donnelly 7-10-10 — R Thornton
5 -044 PENINSULA BOY 48 P Bowen 5-10-10 — C Llewellyn
6 06P- WELDUNFRANK 120 W Brisbourne 5-10-10 — G Supple (3)
7 P/ WHITE IN FRONT 663 Mrs A Price 7-10-10 Mr P Costello (7)
8 265F CHORDY 26 Mrs D Smith 5-10-5 — O Gallagher
9 0-0P PEARHILL ROSY 43 B Preece 8-10-5 — S Wynne
10 P-0P PICK-N-CRUISE 43 R J Price 6-10-5 — R Walley (3)
11 5- FARRAH'S DARLING 168P P Eccles 4-10-3 — A Maguire

11-8 Castle Clear, 6-4 Petersen House, 8-1 Peninsula Boy, 10-1 Chordy, 20-1 Farrah's Darling, 25-1 Molonys Dram, 33-1 Festival, Weldunfrank, Pearhill Rosy, Pick-n-cruise, 50-1 White In Front

COURSE SPECIALISTS

BANGOR: Trainers: U Pipe, 28 winners from 98 runners, 28.6%; C Mann, 4 from 23, 17.4%; A Streeter, 3 from 19, 15.8%; S Brookshaw, 5 from 37, 13.5%; J J O'Neill, 7 from 54, 13.0%; Mrs D Smith, 9 from 77, 11.7%; P Bowen, 3 from 26, 11.5%; J Bradley, 5 from 44, 11.4%; J O'Shea, 5 from 47, 10.6%. Jockeys: A Maguire, 11 winners from 54 rides, 20.4%; C Llewellyn, 12 from 63, 19.0%; E Callaghan, 3 from 16, 18.8%; R Wilkinson, 3 from 18, 16.7%; L Harvey, 3 from 24, 12.5%; T Eley, 11 from 91, 12.1%. Only qualifiers.

WORCESTER: Trainers: D Nicholson, 30 winners from 90 runners, 33.3%; M Pipe, 53 from 174, 30.5%; P Chamings, 3 from 11, 27.3%; C Mann, 11 from 43, 25.6%; K Bailey, 24 from 94, 25.5%; P Nicholls, 14 from 57, 24.6%; K Wingrove, 4 from 22, 18.2%; P Hobbs, 23 from 127, 18.1%; Miss V Williams, 4 from 25, 16.0%; P Bowen, 14 from 88, 15.9%. Jockeys: A P McCoy, 60 winners from 210 rides, 28.6%; J Tizzard, 3 from 11, 27.3%; A Maguire, 29 from 150, 19.3%; R Dunwoody, 33 from 181, 18.2%; N Williamson, 21 from 125, 16.8%; L Aspell, 4 from 24, 16.7%; J Magee, 3 from 20, 15.0%; T J Murphy, 9 from 61, 14.8%; R Johnson, 19 from 140, 13.6%

WORCESTER

THUNDERER

2.20 Margi Boo. 2.50 Water Flower. 3.25 Derring Bridge. 4.00 Snowy Petrel. 4.35 Youbetterbelieveit. 5.05 Steady Eddy.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

2.20 REPCO AUSTRALIA CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,460: 2m) (19 runners)

1 14/2 TONY'S MIST 9 (CD,G) J Bradley 8-11-10 — X Aizpuru
2 6440 PERSIAN BUTTERFLY 10 (D,G) R Stronge 6-11-3 — J Magee
3 523- SORBIERE 313 (B,F) D Grissell 11-11-3 — J Goldstein
4 10-5 MARGI BOO 12 (D,S) M Sheppard 5-11-1 — S Durack
5 F-P5 GALLOPING GUNS 12 (CD,F,G) B Llewellyn 6-10-11 — P Henley
6 2003 MUTAWALI 12 (D,F,G) R Ford 8-10-10 — G Lee
7 50-5 SLIGHTLY SPECIAL 42 (V,D,G) D Thom 6-10-3 — R Massey
8 5002 BARLEY MEADOW 12 (V) R Ford 6-10-3 — N Horrocks
9 2-00 CORDIAL KNIGHT 36 C Morlock 5-10-2 — P Ryan (5)
10 200- FLAGSTAFF 78F A Carroll 5-10-0 — J Tizzard
11 DP4- MARADI 39F B Curley 4-10-0 — L Aspell
12 5-60 DARE ROSE 12 (F,G) M Sheppard 12-10-0 — S Kelly
13 43-2 CHOPIN 12 (V,BF,G) K Wingrove 4-10-0 — J Power (3)
14 P0-P SPIRAL FLYER 84 (S) U Usher 5-10-0 — T Hagger (5)
15 033U POCONO KNIGHT 12 C Jones 8-10-0 — U Keightley (3)
16 F50 BOB KNOWS 40 P Hiatt 4-10-0 — E Husband
17 0520 STRETCHING 12 Mrs L Williamson 5-10-0 — C McCormack
18 50P- FLASH CHICK 278 T Morton 9-10-0 — M Batchelor
19 PP0/ MISS THE BEAT 605F U Salaman 6-10-0 — A Bates

6-1 Barley Meadow, 1-1 Chopin, 8-1 Tony's Mist, Margi Boo, 10-1 Mutawali, Maradi, 12-1 Persian Butterfly, Sorbiere, Galloping Guns, 14-1 others.

2.50 SBJ BROKERS MAIDEN HURDLE (£3,055: 2m) (18)

1 BROTHER BEACON 1408F P Chamings 7-11-5 — T J Murphy
2 00-R CASH ON DEMAND 1 R Peacock 6-11-5 — J Goldstein (5)
3 /34- DUNABRATTIN 313F D Thom 5-11-5 — N Williamson
4 00- LEAD HIM ON 238 K Comerford 5-11-5 — R Garritty
5 05/ MASTER-H 532 R Alner 5-11-5 — J Culloty
6 00/2 MIGHTY KEEN 21 M Banks 5-11-5 — U Richards
7 4/P- MONUMENT 12F J King 6-11-5 — W Marston
8 NEEDWOOD LEGEND 30F A J Wilson 5-11-5 — V Slattery
9 0/03 REFLECTING 75 G H Jones 9-11-5 — R Johnson
10 /PP- SECURON BALE 113 R Rowe 6-11-5 — L Aspell
11 DAVOSKI 352F Miss V Williams 4-11-3 — R Dunwoody
12 0 GROUCHO 17 N Babbage 4-11-3 — D Durack (3)
13 2P- MAJESTY 34F S Dow 4-11-3 — M A Fitzgerald
14 5524 RAKE HEY 43 (V,BF) S Mellor 4-11-3 — B Powell
15 5 LIBISS 36 P Hiatt 6-11-0 — E Husband
16 0 OCTAVIA HILL 28 J Bradley 5-11-0 — P Holley
17 5 BEACON SILVER 28 (BF) P Hobbs 4-10-12 — G Tormey
18 2 WATER FLOWER 12 (BF) M Pipe 4-10-12 — A P McCoy

3-1 Water Flower, 1-2 Majesty, 4-1 Davoski, 6-1 Monument, 8-1 Beacon Silver, 10-1 Rake Hey, 12-1 Reflecting, 25-1 others.

☐ Brian Harding is set to return to race-riding at Carlisle next Saturday. Micky Hammond's stable-jockey, sidelined since he broke a collarbone in a fall at Cartmel a fortnight ago, intends to resume riding out on Monday.

3.25 CALDWELL & BRAHAM CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS HANDICAP CHASE (£7,068: 2m 7f 110yd) (10)

1 3PP- GENERAL CRACK 161 (F,G,S) C Mann 9-12-0 — A P McCoy
2 1F31 THE GOPHER 36 (CD,F,G,S) D Wintle 9-11-7 — W Marston
3 324- LINTON ROCKS 127 (F,G,S) P Nicholls 9-11-6 — J Tizzard (3)
4 PP-P HILLWALK 78 (CD,F,G,S) R Curtis 12-11-1 — N Williamson
5 1-16 CATS RUN 52 (F,G,S) J Upson 10-10-8 — J Culloty
6 -153 CLIFTON SET 10 (B,BF,F,G,S) C Mann 1-10-8 — R Dunwoody
7 10-P SHARP COMMAND 84 (BF,F,G) P Eccles 5-10-5 — U Ahern
8 -112 CRABAPPLE HILL 12 (B,BF,G,S) D Nicholson 6-10-3 — R Johnson
9 -551 ORDOG MOR 12 (F,G) U Meagher 9-10-1 — B Powell
10 2271 DERRING BRIDGE 10 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs S Johnson 8-10-0 S Durack (3)

4-1 Crabapple Hill, 5-1 Linton Rocks, Ordog Mor, 6-1 The Gopher, Derring Bridge, 7-1 Clifton Set, 8-1 Cats Run, 12-1 others.

4.00 SECURON (SEAT BELTS) HANDICAP HURDLE (£5,121: 2m 4f) (5)

1 3-P0 KINNESCASH 12F (C,F,G,S) P Bowen 5-11-13 — R Dunwoody
2 1123 RUNAWAY PETE 12 (BF,C,D,F,G) M Pipe 8-11-9 — A P McCoy
3 210- WONTCOSTALOTBUT 36F (D,S) M Wilkinson 4-10-3 — W Marston
4 5111 SNOWY PETREL 12 (CD,F,G) C Mann 6-10-2 — J Magee
5 0-41 BAD BERTRICH 62 (D,F,G) Graeme Roe 7-10-0 — N Williamson

15-8 Snowy Petrel, 7-2 Runaway Pete, 4-1 Wontcostalotbut, 9-2 Bad Bertrich, 5-1 Kinnescash.

4.35 BUSPARTS NOVICES CHASE (£5,225: 2m) (10)

1 -111 YOUBETTERBELIEVEIT 7 (CD,F,G) S Sherwood 9-12-5 — Mr R Forristal (7)
2 0/3/ BILL OF RIGHTS 684 Mrs E Scott 10-10-12 — B Powell
3 P5F- CLIFTON GAME 260 R Alner 8-10-12 — J Culloty
4 /2/F CYRUS THE GREAT 62 (D,F) K Bailey 6-10-12 — N Williamson
5 633- DAMZA 143 N Mason 6-10-12 — K Johnson
6 361- DINES 131 (D,G) P Nicholls 6-10-12 — T J Murphy
7 42P- EASY LISTENING 105 (D,G,S) N Hawke 6-10-12 — U A Fitzgerald
8 P-6F GLENTORALDA 1 M Jackson 8-10-12 — Mr M Rodda
9 03P3 HUGH DANIELS 12 (G) C Hemsley 10-10-12 — Miss A Dudley (7)
10 /00- CLASSICAL JOKER 127 R Alner 5-10-5 — S Durack (3)

7-4 Dines, 7-2 Cyrus The Great, 9-2 Youbetterbelieveit, 8-1 Easy Listening, 10-1 Clifton Game, Damza, 20-1 Hugh Daniels, 25-1 others.

5.05 CHAMPION SPARK PLUGS STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,716: 2m) (16)

1 1 STEADY EDDY 11 (CD,G) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-11 — J Goldstein (5)
2 00-6 CAPTAIN BIGGLES 17 K Bell 6-11-4 — D Upton
3 0- LANHYDROCK GREEN 149 N Hawke 5-11-4 — N Williamson
4 4 MALLAM MIST 27 R Buckler 6-11-4 — B Powell
5 23- PEEWIT BRIDGE 147P M Pipe 6-11-4 — A P McCoy
6 POOLES PATROL O Geraghty 5-11-4 — R Supple
7 PPP- ROYAL DIVIDE 132P C Bennett 6-11-4 — Mr P Hanly
8 RUFIUS D Nicholson 5-11-4 — R Johnson
9 2 SPRINGFIELD SCALLY 11 S Gollings 5-11-4 — S Durack (3)
10 00- THISTLEKICKER 176 N Hawke 6-11-4 — R Greene
11 BOOMFIELD J Smith 4-11-2 — T J Murphy
12 MIDAVON MINSTREL D Nicholson 4-11-2 — R Massey (3)
13 PALINDROME P Felgate 4-11-2 — J Tizzard (3)
14 d123- GLACIAL MISSILE 107 (BF) P Bowen 5-10-13 — DOUBTFUL
15 LOST YOUR MARBLES J Mullins 5-10-13 — Mr J Mead
16 ULTRA PONTEM P Hayward 6-10-13 — M A Fitzgerald

9-4 Steady Eddy, 1-2 Rufius, 9-2 Midavon Minstrel, 5-1 Springfield Scally, 13-2 Peewit Bridge, 16-1 Lost Your Marbles, 20-1 Mallam Mist, 25-1 others.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

☐ Chris McGrath selected Craigsteel (10-1), Somayda (8-1) and Schnitzel (4-1) in his guide to the races on television yesterday.

JIMMY FORTUNE was so determined to make an impression on Robert Sangster, who has asked him to ride his horses next season, that he was in danger of making an even deeper one on Commander Collins in the Intercell Communications Champagne Stakes at Doncaster yesterday (Chris McGrath writes). His fervent efforts, foiled only narrowly by Michael Hills on the front-running Auction House, duly met with rather less approval from the stewards than from Sangster.

Fortune was found to bave used his whip with excessive force and was suspended for four days. Sangster, bowever, was enthusiastic about the jockey he wants to replace John Reid (himself suspended yesterday) as principal rider at Manton next season. "It's up to him," Sangster said. "He has had other offers and it's all in the melting pot."

Fortune said: "I want to concentrate on my riding for now and decide at the end of the season." The race's equine protagonists, meanwhile, received a general quote of 20-1 for the 2,000 Guineas.

Doncaster

Going: good

1.30 (1m) 1, Housekeeper (O Peslier, 7-1); 2, Sunstreak (15-8 fav); 3, Lear Spear (9-1). 5 ran. Nk, ¾l. R Charlton. Tote: £8.50; £1.60, £1.30. DF: £5.20. CSF: £18.30.

2.05 (1m 2f 60yd) 1, Marcus Maximus (J Quinn, 6-1); 2, Dark Shell (7-2); 3, Proper (11-8 fav). 5 ran. NR: Pegnitz, Proper Blue. 2l, ¾l. H Cecil. Tote: £5.40; £2.30, £1.90. DF: £13.10. CSF: £24.13.

2.35 (1m 4f) 1, Craigsteel (K Fallon, 10-1); 2, Alsweelah (7-2); 3, Mutawwaj (7-4 fav). 6 ran. Sh hd, 1¼l. H Cecil. Tote: £12.30; £3.60, £2.20. DF: £19.20. CSF: £42.18.

3.05 (7f) 1, Auction House (M Hills, 7-2; Thunderer's nap); 2, Commander Collins (7-2); 3, Tumbleweed Quartet (16-1). Lavery (5th) 9-4 fav. 8 ran. Hd, 2l. B Hills. Tote: £4.50; £1.60, £1.90, £3.60. DF: £7.10. CSF: £15.36.

3.35 (1m 4f) 1, Jazil (L Dettori, 8-1); 2, Dantesque (20-1); 3, Jaazim (5-1 fav); 4, Alberich (8-1). 17 ran. 3l, nk. J Gosden. Tote: £9.80; £2.80, £3.30, £2.10, £2.20. DF: £86.30. CSF: £158.38. Tricast: £829.90.

4.10 (1m) 1, Golden Snake (M Hills, 13-8 fav); 2, Blue (11-1); 3, Knysna Lily (7-1). 16 ran. 2l, ½l. B Hills. Tote: £2.70, £1.50, £3.40, £2.10. DF: £14.10. CSF: £23.61.

4.40 (5f) 1, Indian Spark (A Culhane, 20-1); 2, Levelled (10-1); 3t, Beware (16-1); 3t, Pigeon (25-1). Lady Sheriff 6-1 jt-fav. 20 ran. Sh hd, 1¼l. J Goldie. Tote: £27.70; £5.30, £2.70. Beware £5.50, Pigeon £5.30. DF: £91.40. CSF: £197.65. Tricast: Indian Spark, Levelled, Beware £1,555.40. Indian Spark, Levelled, Pigeon £2,352.07. NR: Kira, Rushcutter Bay.

Placepot: £178.60

Quadpot: £21.20

Goodwood

Going: good to soft (soft places home straight)

1.45 (1m) 1, Desert Valentine (A Daly, 16-1); 2, Muara Bay (14-1); 3, Delight of Dawn (14-1); 4, Cherished (12-1). Present Situation (5th) 7-1 fav. 19 ran. ½l, ½l. L Cottrell. Tote: £53.10; £11.50, £3.80, £5.30, £5.50. DF: £246.20. CSF: £205.00. Tricast: £3,016.11.

2.15 (7f) 1, Schnitzel (M Fenton, 4-1); 2, Potruan (10-1); 3, Cashid (7-1). Picasso's Heritage 7-2 fav. 11 ran. Nk, 6l. M Bell. Tote: £4.70; £1.60, £2.90, £2.30. DF: £16.40. CSF: £38.95. Tricast: £257.53.

2.45 (1m) 1, Mutaaheb (G Carter, 100-30); 2, Glamis (5-6 fav); 3, Fantastic Light (9-4). 3 ran. ½l, 2l. E Dunlop. Tote: £4.40. DF: £2.50. CSF: £6.00.

3.15 (1m 1f) 1, Somayda (G Carter, 8-1); 2, Lonesome Dude (4-1 fav); 3, Diamond White (40-1). 14 ran. 2l, hd. J Dunlop. Tote: £12.70; £3.60, £2.00, £11.00. DF: £23.30. Trifecta: £2,329.50. CSF: £37.42. Tricast: £1,160.82.

3.45 (7f) 1, Hujoom (G Carter, 2-1 fav); 2, Mhmsh (5-1); 3, Paris Sport (12-1). 7 ran. 1¼l, hd. J Dunlop. Tote: £2.40, £1.70, £3.60. DF: £18.60. CSF: £12.00.

4.15 (1m) 1, Master Millfield (S Drowne, 11-4 fav); 2, Ardent (25-1); 3, Junikay (7-1); 4, Prospector's Cove (15-2). 19 ran. 1l, ½l. R Hodges. Tote: £3.40; £1.40, £6.70, £1.60, £2.00. DF: £94.00. CSF: £83.49. Tricast: £445.59.

4.50 (6f) 1, Munjiz (R Cochrane, 4-5 fav); 2, Voracious (7-1); 3, Hound Venture (50-1). 11 ran. 1¾l, 4l. B Hills. Tote: £1.90; £1.10, £2.00, £3.80. DF: £3.70. CSF: £7.24.

5.20 (1m 4f) 1, Tough Act (R Hughes, 9-2); 2, Livius (9-1); 3, Double Blade (7-1). Cuff 9-4 fav. 8 ran. 1½l, 1l. Mrs A Perrett. Tote: £5.80; £1.40, £2.80, £1.70. DF: £23.40. CSF: £40.92.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £84,699.04 carried forward to Doncaster tomorrow).

Placepot: £1,340.60 Quadpot: £28.30

Worcester

Going: chase good, hurdles good to firm

2.25 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Oneforwillie (W Marston, 7-2); 2, Ballon Point (11-8 fav); 3, Lady Godiva (40-1). 10 ran. NR: Oakmont. 4l, 17l. P Bowen. Tote: £3.50; £1.10, £1.30, £4.00. DF: £5.20. CSF: £7.95.

2.55 (2m 7f 110yd ch) 1, The Full Monty (G Bradley, 13-8 fav); 2, Zaitoon (11-4); 3, Sparkling Spring (15-8). 7 ran. 1¾l, 8l. S Sherwood. Tote: £2.10; £1.60, £1.60. DF: £2.70. CSF: £6.10.

3.25 (3m hdle) 1, Brush With Fame (G Tormey, 6-4 fav); 2, High Summer (15-2); 3, Spionen (9-1). 10 ran. 8l, 5l. P Hobbs. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £1.30, £2.80. DF: £6.40. CSF: £11.52. Tricast: £68.66.

3.55 (2m ch) 1, Mrs Em (T J Murphy, 15-8 fav); 2, Green Green Desert (11-4); 3, Time Won't Wait (7-2). 5 ran. 2l, ¾l. P Nicholls. Tote: £2.30; £1.20, £1.90. DF: £3.90. CSF: £6.97.

4.30 (3m hdle) 1, Palaemon (B Fenton, 2-5 fav); 2, Jarome Jerome (40-1); 3, Rubon Prince (20-1). 8 ran. NR: Arctic Fusilier. 8l, 4l. G Balding. Tote: £1.40; £1.10, £6.60, £2.70. DF: £16.80. CSF: £25.26.

5.05 (2m hdle) 1, Irsal (A P McCoy, 15-8 fav); 2, Woodstock Wanderer (5-1); 3, Routing (2-1). 6 ran. 10l, 5l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.80; £1.30, £2.60. DF: £4.60. CSF: £10.83.

Placepot: £8.10

Quadpot: £3.30

ALFA ROMEO

156 2.0TS, 1998R, alloys, a/c, silver/blue Romeo, CD, pass a/bag, 6k mls. Save £2500. £19,500. Tel: 01539 536439(home).

156 V6 S reg. Silver/red momo lthr. Pass A/bag. G/mats. 250 mls. UK car. Must sell. £21,995. 01702 588626 or 0468 776611.

SPIDER Lusso 3.0 V6, 200+ HP, Ibd, P reg, Silver, leather, AC, CD, perfect, very fast. £19,000 or best offer. Tel: 0831 675702

SPIDER Lusso. New Model, S reg, 0 miles, tanned del, Grey, Red Momo, List £26491. Origin Price. £24,995. 0181 696 0999.

SPIDER Lusso 97R titanium grey black leather 4,600 miles £22,000. Tel: 0181 853 1989

UK Spec-156 1.8 S/Pack 1. 15,777 / Spider 2.0 Lusso 23,966 otr 16 wks del 01889 fax 726611

OFFICIAL DUTCH
ALFA ROMEO MAIN DEALER
established 1955
Sells Alfa Giulietta Sprint 1962
OTHER ALFAS AVAILABLE
Credit Cards accepted.
Tel: 0031 26 3397 444
Fax: 0031 26 3397 447
Email: [illegible]
http://www.[illegible]
MEXPORT BV HOLLAND

AMERICAN CARS

CORVETTE C5 Convertible silver/black leather, supplied new May 1998 by Bauer Millett. Full 3 year UK warranty. 2,500 miles only. Emigration forces sale. All factory options including 6 speed manual gearbox, dual zone air conditioning, F45 selective damping, CD changer. Offers over £40,000. 01923 411573

ASTON MARTIN

DB7 Auto, 96P, Mendip blue, Alisee alloys, Pacific smoke lthr, 24K, FSH, new tyres, tracker, superb condition, 1 private owner. £53,995. 01279 850225 w/end and eves / 01279 832800 day.

DB7 Auto Coupe 96N silver grey lthr 21,000 miles FSH £59,500. 01205 359053 / 07771 621466

ASTON MARTIN
'94 (P/P) Virage Vantage BRG, 8k, FSH ......£POA.
'89 (P/P) Volante Convertible BRG Metallic, 10k, FSH, Manual ......£POA.
contact
Richard Hayward
Lincoln Motor Co
01737 221666

AUDI

2.6E Cab 94 (M) Auto. Silver, computer, alarm. FSH, MOT, 30K, excell Cond. One lady owner. £17,500. Tel: 01323 898338.

80, 2-Ltr Sport. M-Reg Red/ immac beige int. PAS w/mirrs & s/roof Tax MOT 22k. £10,000 ono 01474 351582 / 0958 354716

A3 1.6 Sport 98, Laser red, 9K mls, ESH, alloys, 1 lady owner, immac. £15,950. 01789 750701.

A3 TDi 110 1998 Climate Control, Sports Suspension, only 3,900 miles £16,995. 01580 879666.T

A6 ESTATE SE. Black. 1996. Excellent condition. FSH. Air con etc. £14,000. 0181 449 1994.

A8 4.2 Quattro. Ming blue, grey leather. 95 N. 44,000 mls. £25,900. Tel: 01733 343272 or 0411 435722

A8 4.2 Quattro Sport 97R silver blue hide huge spec inc. tiptronic, climate etc. 20k FSH £37,995. 01920 438017 /0860 597648

A8 4.2 QUATTRO, Tiptronic, 96, Metallic Green, charcoal hide, fully loaded, FSH. £25,950. 01920 438017 /0860 597648

A8 97 4.2 Sport, 18k mls. Pearl white. FSH. Perfect condition. £38k. Tel: 0181 502 2001

CABRIOLET 2.6 4 months old, Ming blue metallic, 6K, tracker fitted. £28,500. Tel: 0113 040196.

COUPE 2.0E 8V, 96 N, 19K mls, cricket green/white cream, E/m, E/w, S s/roof, ABS, FASH, immac cond. £12,750. 0403 458402.

AUDI AUTHORISED DEALERS

To ensure customer service quality standards some calls may be recorded.

In 1992 an Audi turbodiesel injection completed 1,338 miles on one tank.
In 1998 you can pick up a used one, if it stops long enough.

Please phone above number for details.

Audi

Audi Approved Used Cars. Vorsprung durch Technik as we continue to say.

Audi
98 (R) A8 4.2 quattro. Racing Green, Cream leather interior, alarm, alloys, CD player, electric seats, Tiptronic gearbox, service history, demo £49,999
97 AUDI A8 3.7 SPORT. Cashmere, leather interior, Tiptronic gearbox, climate control, electric seats, cruise control, CD player, ABS, demonstrator £36,999
97 (P) A8 2.8 SPORT. Volcano Black, Ecru leather interior, airbag, alarm, alloys, CD player ...£32,999
TEL: 0191 295 0555
Colebrook & Burgess Audi
Silverlink Park, Wallsend, Newcastle upon Tyne

Audi
Sloane Square:
Monday-Friday 8.00-7.00 Saturday 9.00-4.00
Berkeley Square:
Monday-Friday 9.00-7.00 Saturday 9.00-2.00

Sloane Square

97R Audi 1.8E Convertible. Blue Pearl, blue leather, p/hood, obc, r/locks, 7" w/wheels, 12,680 miles £30,995
97R Audi 2.6E Convertible, Volcano Black, power hood, 17" alloy wheels, 5,740 miles £28,995
97R Audi 2.6E Convertible. Volcano Black, leather, aircon, p/hood, obc, r/locks, 17" a/w, 23,680 miles £25,999
98M Audi 2.6E Convertible. Indigo Blue, blue p/hood, airbag, 19 spoke alloys, 25,680 miles £22,898
96P Audi 2.0E Convertible. Amazon green, black leather/cloth, black hood, 3rd b/light, 21,160 miles £21,650
95N Audi 2.0E Convertible. Ragusa Green, leather/cloth s/seats, p/hood, a/bag, 35,360 miles £20,495
95N Audi 2.0E Convertible. Aluminium Silver, leather/cloth s/seats, a/bag, black hood, 20,590 miles £18,995

Scotts Audi
214 Pavilion Road
London SW1X 0AN
Telephone 0171 730 5432

Berkeley Square

97P Audi A8 4.2 quattro Sport. Ragusa Green, ecru leather, climate, c/cont, hlw, solar roof, r/blind, r/locks, 10rsl, 18" alloys, 19,680 miles £41,995
98R Audi A6 2.8 quattro Tiptronic, Aadora Red, vanilla leather, c/cont, sat nav, walnut, park assistance, f/mirrors, cl bench seat, comp alloys, 2,420 miles £35,995
97R Audi A4 2.8SE Auto Avant. Ming Blue, ecru leather, climate, Daymont, walnut, p/s/roof, cwr4, hl/lw, 4x a/bags, h/seats, comp a/wheels, 13,600 miles £28,995
97R Audi A3 1.8T Sport Auto. Ming Blue, onyx leather, climate, p/s/roof, h/seats, r/locks, f/mirrors, cd & bose, comp alloys, 1,860 miles £24,995
98R Audi A4 1.8T Sport Avant. Azure Blue, climate, 4 a/bags, alloy wheels, 5,460 miles £22,995
98R Audi A3 1.6 Sport. Azure Blue, onyx trim, abs, 4x a/bags, alloys, 5,680 miles £17,295

15-17 Berkeley Square
London W1X 5HE
Telephone 0171 495 0000

AUDI

S2 Coupé 95M, Oak green, black lthr, walnut, AC, SR, HFS, 6CD audio. 26k mls. Exc cond. £23,500. 0171 937 5551

S2 Coupé, J reg, black, 43k miles, FASH. Leather, A/C, CD, alarm, EW, EM, ESR. Excellent cond. £14,495. 01503 264721

SAVE Money on all new Audi models. European Car Imports Tel: 0181 889 4848. Fax: 0181 889 7500

BMW

316i 96P 26,000 mls, Morea green/Turquoise int, ESR, sports sus, full wrty 31/7/99, FSH, excellent cond. 1 owner. £13,750. 01702 341354 / 0385 328569

318i 92J, Mauritius blue, 33k mls, FSH, ABS, PAS, CL, cruise, CD, EW, ESR, alarm/immob, 6 owners. £9,450. Tel: 0181 318 3223.

BMW

318i Auto, 1990, 59k, metallic silver, sunroof, FSH, electric windows, immaculate condition, 1 owner. £4,995. 01923 827005.

318i new unit £17,987 otr 16-20 wks del. All other BMW's fast del 01389 734540 fax 726611

318iS Coupe 96N Silver, over £9,500 of factory fitted extras, full M-Technic body kit, 17" alloys, climate, computer, CD, 42K, £17,500. (01767) 682288 office (01767) 627499 home (Beds)

318iSE 97P, auto, 4,500 miles, elec windows, aircon, tilt blue, grey/blue interior & leather seats, £19,500. Tel: 0468 520255

318iS Cpe 95M Diamond Black, alloys, Rsool, ABS, D/A-bag, 1owner, 35K, fsh/wrty £14,995. 01488 205160 / 07775 502 300.T

318iSE 98R, silver, manual, usual SE extras. Lady owner. As new. £17,495. Tel: 01189 736851.

318iSE jet black P reg 97. Extras inc cross spoke alloys top BMW alarm boot spoiler sony 10 stack CD FBMWSH immaculate condition. £16,750. 01403 865271

323i Touring 97P. Arctic Silver/anthracite cloth, Manual Alloys, sunroof, FSH, 23,000 mls, Good condition. £18,495. 01630 673924(H)/ 01782 744777(O)

323i lux convertible. 97R (98 spec). Montreal blue, dark blue fully electric hood, light grey lthr, AC etc. £31,500. Tel: 01656 786626 or 0370 986766

323i conv, 97P, 10,000 mls, p/hood, grey lthr, M3 alloys, alarm, wrty. £27,500. 0171 277 8998

325 SE Ltng Metallic Green /lthr, FSH lady owner from new, CD, computer, tracker, 63,000 miles, very good cond. £12,000 ono. 01827 280015/ 01400 61128

328i convertible, 1995 M, 29,000 mls, Boston Green, tan lthr int, max, high spec, FBMWSH, immac. £26,000. 0171 727 6634

530i (V8) Touring, 94M, Auto, AGE, blue/light grey hide, FSH. Full spec inc A/C, alarm/immob, alloys, OBC. 146k mls. Excellent condition. £12,999. 01929 462127(eves) /554454(day).

530iSE Auto, 94M, 64k, FSH. Calypso red, soft grey hide, A/C, cruise, OBC, wood trim, EW, alloys, Remote BMW alarm. Endcas. £17,750. Tel: 01795 429598.

535i 98 S. 500 miles. Montreal blue. Sports seats and suspension. CD. Full spec. £36,500. 01764 768846 or 763352.

535iSE 96P new shape glacier green met / sand beige lthr a/c alloys 14k only p/x £29,995. 01253 894440/0956 729778 T

540i 98R 5,000 miles, Immaculate, Glacier Green, dark green lthr, heated comfort seats, steptronic, auto air cond, s/roof, multi funct. s/wheel, elec damper control, 10 speaker, 6CD stack, park dist control, xenon h/lights, tracker. £39,000 Tel: 07771 703800

540i 94L 58k mls Orientblue lthr AC 17"alloys SR FBMWSH wrnty avail CD stack £16,750 ON 01483 210290. 0498 752480

SAVE Money on all new BMW models. European Car Imports Tel: 0181 889 4848. Fax: 0181 889 7500

SL328 New Y6 engine, 98S, silver/black hide, glass roof, CD player UK supplied. £68,000. 01223 425936/ 0777 1922937.

TOURING 518SE 1995 M Calypso Red FSH 26K miles twin tools 2 truly immac car £13,750 Tel: 01903 501896

Z1 1990, Top Red, 27k mls, FBMWSH, Cd, lthr, beautiful condition. £21k ono. 0370 758188.

Z3 1.9, 98R, 4k mls, Montreal blue, beige lthr, walnut, A/C, CD, a/bags, wnd dflctr. Excellent condition. £22,000. 0181 458 5024

Z3 1.9 R Reg Montreal Blue Met 7K excel cond single owner £21,995 ono Tel: 01895 835776

Z3 1.9 98 Silver/leather, electric hood, Z-stay alloys, 400 miles. £23,000. 01507 450394 Eve.

Z3 1.9 6wks del. M lthr-P/Hood-S Seats-R/bars-CD P/Abag £23,750 otr 01389 734540 fax 726611

Cotswold
Tewkesbury Road,
Cheltenham, Glos.
0800 376 5060

[illegible] 98R Orient Blue Grey Lthr. Climate Control. Board Monitor TV Navigation. GSM Phone. 6000 miles. £37,995 Cotswold 0800 376 5060

[illegible] 98R Canyon Red/Sand Beige Lthr. Climate Control. E Comfort. Multi-Spoke Alloys. C Seats. 1000 miles. £38,995 Cotswold 0800 376 5060

740 A 95M Navarra Violet Sand Beige Lthr. Climate Control. C Seats. Top H-Fi. 66500 miles. £22,995 Cotswold 0800 376 5060

740iA 96N Oxford Green Sand Beige Lthr. Climate Control. Comfort Seats. 32030 miles. £34,995 Cotswold 0800 376 5059

728iA 98R Cosmos Black Sand Beige Lthr. D Climate. Board Monitor TV Navigation. 3350 miles. £35,995 Cotswold 0800 376 5060

730iA 94L Orient Blue Grey Leather. Climate Control. Electric S Roof. Computer. 63000 miles. £19,995 Cotswold 0800 376 5060

Approved Used Cars

635 CSi High line 89. Silver dechromed. 39k. Detailed BMW SH from new. Showroom condition. 18 months Tax & MOT. £14,995. Tel: 01423 330904

635 CSi Highline 89 Auto Silver Black Lthr FSH 95k Immac £10,950. 01782 773411.

730iA V8 94 L, Fjord grey silver lthr, fully loaded, tracker, 28k, FBMWSH, 1 owner, superb. £18,225ono. 01582 715084.

750i 1990 £9,500. 70k mls. FBMWSH. Dolphin grey/grey sprts lthr. De-chromed. fully loaded inc. 17" Alpinas. Mint. Call 0181 889 9429 or 0973 848044

840Ci 95M, 51,000 miles, FSH, every extra, superb throughout, £29,760. or exchange for 840 Sport in Estoril Blue. Tel: 01423 734866 / 0468 588300.

840CiA 94L 54k mls just serviced FBMWSH BMW warranty. Bargain - best offer this week. 0410 500111/01925 730670

850 CI Auto 93K granite met/black hide 75k mls FSH wide MSS alloys, 16mth gdhd wrnty. Just serviced £26500 01625 584121

850CSi 5.6 94M, 46,000 mls, Black + grey leather interior, FSH, £37,996. Tel: 91242 673921

ALPINA B10 4.0 one of two in UK blue lthr wrnty FSH CD stack 80k mls immac £19,995. Off 01483 810290. 0498 752480

HUGE savings on new RHD UK-spec BMW's from north dealers 01594 826650/ Fax 825200

M3 Evolution Conv (new) Estoril blue, hardtop, full spec, plus full Nappa leather int, Walnut trim, sequential gearbox, A/C, CD, pass airbag, alarm class 1, and more. Beautiful. Save £3250 off List price 01491 628220

M3, Conv, 96 N, 15k, Cosmos Black/Black lthr, a/c, computer, Sony 10 CD, 8 owners, £30,000. 0171 371 7074 / 0410 376 700

M3 6 speed, Nov 94. Superb condition. FBMWSH. Daytona violet, 4 grey suede. BMW warranty. Only £22,500. Call: 01865 820820.

Z3 2.8 R reg (Oct 97), met silver, black leather int. Many extras inc. air con, tracker, stack CD, immaculate. Pd £31.5k best offer over £27k. 0171 487 3201.

Z3 2.8 R, Black, Black leather, air con, Heated seats, CD, electric roof, 14,600 mls, £29,500. Tel: 0181 9621281/ 0956 608068.

Z3 2.8 S reg. Silver with red leather, only 600 miles, many extras. £29,500. Tel: 01258 830080

Z3 2.8, S reg, 0 miles, immed delivery choice of specs, save on list from £24,995. Origin 0181 696 0999

Z3 LHD 1.8 96P. Black/grey, 2-star alloys, twin airbags, FBMWSH. £15,750. Tel: 07775 804782

Z3M, S reg, 0 miles, A/C, immed delivery, list £42,030. Origin price £37,995. 0181 696 0999

750i L Auto
87 F reg. Fjord Grey, with Grey full leather, Multi spoke alloys, graduated tinted screen. Elec glass s/roof, rear seat package, navigation system, top Hi-Fi speaker system, M-Tec driver air bag, tracker system, 12,600 mls, Immaculate, 1 owner, FSH
£55,000
Tel: 01753 884 687

BMW Z3M Coupe Auto, 98L, Samos Blue/Blue Cloth, Driven A/bag, ESR alloys spoke 57k 2wan FSH £3,450

BMW 323i Cpe Auto 97P Marra Cos Lt grey lthr oh sports steering wheel ths/sun Szag BOS stereo CD changer, lower 24k FBMWSH £23,995

BMW 740i Auto. 98N. Orient Blue/Grey Lthr, Full spec inc. H6 Spec memo & CD changer 49k FBMW SH £21,995

AUDI A4 1.8T Sport Avant 97P. Paradise Green/ Lthr Sports Seats & Susp BOS Stereo/CD Chngr lower 18k FSH £14,995

VOLVO 850T5 GLT Auto 96P, Nautic Blue/grey 1/2 lthr, Full spec, a/c, cru Driven & FSH Airbags top stereo 30k FSH £19,995

01565 830 151

BMW WANTED

MOLE Valley pay premium prices for low mileage BMW's. Please phone 0831 404172.

WANTED 840 SPORTS in Estoril Blue. Please ring: 01422 734866 / 0468 588300.

WANTED wanted, 850 840 750 M3 M5 M6 etc, any miles/cond 01628 526088/ 0831 123911.T

BOATING & YACHTING

SUNSEEKER Portofino 32. Twin turbo diesel engines, low hours, etc cond. 4 berth. C/H & hot water system. Good spec. Lying Poole. £56,000. 0956 254804.

CLASSIC CARS

MERCEDES 600, SWB, 69, RHD, cream/ blue lthr, immac cond, £25,000. Tel: 01277 355943

CLASSIC CARS

E-TYPE Centre 50 E-Types always in stock. Sensibly Priced. Buying or selling. Tel for info pack. 01527 573247 (Midlands).

JAGUAR E-Type 4.2, 2+2, RHD, 1969, BRG, Chrome wire wheels, manual, immaculate. £16,750. Tel: Liverpool 0151 227 4219

JENSEN CV8 MKIII, 1964, Smoke green/Magnolia lthr, genuine 61,000 mls, SS exhaust, competition brakes, otherwise very original. Substantial history, immaculate. £12,500. 01332 510218

MORRIS MINOR Convertible 1965. Split screen model. Excellent cond. £4,000. 01464 646861

FERRARI

1973 Ferrari Daytona spider conv. Red/red leather, Borrani wheels, Celebrity owned £185,000 Tel: 001 562 923 0585 Fax: 0031 312 6035 2628.

328GTS 1990, 14k mls, Rosso/ creme, A/C, Ferwood stereo, Maranello history, new cambelts/clutch. Immaculate. £45,750. Tel: 01189 701102.

355 SPIDER 95(M) Silver/Red leather, 6k F Maranello SH, as new, miles since b/new, LHD. £45,000. 01234 766621.

355 SPIDER 1996 11,000 mls, Rosso, Crema hyde, twin airbag model. £88,000. 01277 224278

BERLITZ 1978, 27k, FSH, fully restored by Ferrari UK, concourse cond. £95,000. 0181 8947669.

F355 Berlinetta 96P Red sports seats radio/Cd 2,500 miles as new under factory warranty. FHM. £94,500 Tel: 01628 639940

F355 F1 GTS delivery Oct. 98, rosso, crema, ecru, Navi, Tel: 0976 430780.

FORD

APPROXIMATELY 30 Scorpio's in stock at any one time eg. Ultima 2.0, 4 door manual, N reg, nouveau red, leather, £9,995. Ghia X 2.3 4 door auto, R reg, silver, leather, 5,000 mls, £16,500. Ghia 2.3 4 door auto, 97P, Panther Black, leather, 3,800 mls, £13,996. Ultima 2.9 24V 4 door auto, R reg, panther black, leather, £18,500. For all your Ford requirements phone 01590 560056/ 01590 814440 Sun. T.

AUTOMATIC Turbo Diesel Ghia X 4 Door, 98R, pepper red, leather, 8,000 mls £16,995. Tel: 01590 560056.T.

CONTRACT HIRE

WARRENDER
CONTRACT HIRE AND LEASING
3 GREAT DEALS ON BMW
BMW 318i Only 16 left. Met Paint, Air Con, Black Leather, Sports Package, Automatic, Front & Rear skirting plus many more extras. £[illegible] ON THE ROAD
BMW 328i Only 41 left. Met Paint, Air Con, Black Leather, Sports Package, Automatic, Front & Rear skirting plus many more extras. £27950.00 ON THE ROAD
BMW 523i Only 29 left. Met Paint, Auto Air Con, Black Leather, 5 Speed Automatic with Steptronic, CD changer, Automatic stability control plus many more extras. £[illegible] ON THE ROAD
WE ARE ONLY TOO PLEASED TO OFFER OUR FINANCIAL SERVICES SHOULD YOU REQUIRE US TO QUOTE.
All Prices include Road Fund Tax, Delivery, 3 years warranty with more warranty direct. (Cancelled order imports).
Don't Wait, Telephone Free 0800 7311708
Environmental House, Crost St, Standish, Wigan WN6 0BQ
Tel: 01257 427708 Fax: 01257 427711.
Email: [illegible]

THE BEST IN CONTRACT HIRE

ANY MODEL OF NEW CAR AVAILABLE		SPECIAL CONTRACT HIRE DEALS
Audi A3 1.6	£[illegible]+VAT	New Golf GTi 1.8 5 Door Now Available
Audi A4 1.8 Saloon	£[illegible]+VAT	[illegible]
BMW 323 Coupe [illegible]	£[illegible]+VAT	Renault Megane Scenic 1.6e RT
BMW 328i SE Saloon	£[illegible]+VAT	[illegible]
Citroen Xsara 1.8 VTR	£[illegible]+VAT	Ford Puma 1.7i Air/Con Lux pack
Ford Ka New Puma 1.7 Coupe	£[illegible]+VAT	Check in Stock Call for a Quote
Grand Cherokee 4.0 Auto	£[illegible]+VAT	SAAB 9-3 2.0t Convertible A/C
Honda Accord 1.8i Air Con	£[illegible]+VAT	
New Mazda MX5 1.8	£[illegible]+VAT	Try Personal Contract Purchase for the Private User, Quotes Available on New or Used Cars
Mercedes C180 Classic	£[illegible]+VAT	
Mercedes E250 Classic	£[illegible]+VAT	
MGF Convertible	£[illegible]+VAT	
Renault Laguna 2.0 RT Air Con	£[illegible]+VAT	
Volvo V70 2.0 Estate	£[illegible]+VAT	

BAYTREE COURT LTD
Tel: 01488 657999 • Fax: 01488 608719

FORD

GALAXY 2.3 Ghia. 7 seat auto 98R Silver 7,000 miles, air con, leather. £17,995. 0181 467 0679

MONDEO 1.8 LX TD Estate, 96P, vermaillard green, 35,000 mls, £8,995. 01590 560056.T.

PROBE 2.0 16V Coupe, 95N, teal mist, elec pack, air con, £7,995. 01590 560056.T.

SCORPIO 2.9 24V Ultima 4 door auto, R reg, panther black, leather. £18,500. 01590 560056.T.

GENERAL

VAST SAVINGS ON NEW CARS FROM HOLLAND
FORD NISSAN AUDI
All Models RHD
Autocentrum [illegible]
[illegible]
Holland
0031-413211817
E-Mail info@[illegible]

HONDA

INTEGRA Type R, VTEC, stunning performance. Special reg. Y low mge. £20,995. 01305 833826

LEGEND 3.5i Auto, 98R, 1 own, 9500 mls, Met Grey. £27,950. 01529 741001 Contact Steve T.

PRELUDE 2.2 VTEC 94M, Milano Red, FSH, Superb condition. £11,500. Tel: 01582 761602

HONDA NSX

NSX (M), 58k mls, FSHL, Charlotte green. Excellent condition. £34,000. Tel: 0181 858 9464.

CONTRACT HIRE

AMAZING OFFERS FOR BUSINESS USERS
C.Hire - Lease - Buy P.Mth
[illegible]
HTTP://www.AMT-Leasing.CO.UK/
AMT Tel: 0171 222 4385 Tel: 0113 253 9797

JAGUAR & DAIMLER

4.0 SOV 1996, 40k mls, black magnolia, AC, alloys, Premier stereo, many extras. Superb. £25,000. 01189 701102.

4.0 V8 Auto Madeira Red/oatmeal lthr, cd, ac, alloys, rmc con. Feb 98, 4,000 mls. £36,950. 01902 898836(O) /01902 491299(W)

XJR 3.2 Sport, auto, 95N, 20k mls, Sapphire blue met, oatmeal lthr, alloys, sunroof CD, FSH, £21,250.ono 0151 944 1500/830 2896(eves).

XJR 4.0 Supercharged, 4 dr saloon, 15k mls, 1996. Still under warranty. £30,500. 0181 658 3837.

XJR-S Guy Salmon Ltd edition. Dec 1988 (89 model). Red with magnolia piped red leather interior, 44,000 miles. Fully loaded. FSH. £14,000. Tel: 01996 670755.

XJS Conv, 93K reg, 38,000 miles, Champagne Gold, Mint, Half leather, aircon, alloys, £16,500 ono. Tel: 0161 9803077.

XK8 96 Met Green very high spec FSH, Finance available. £38,950. 01948 664046 / 0973 800808

JAGUAR & DAIMLER WANTED

MOLE Valley pay premium prices for low mileage Jaguars. Please phone 0831 404172.

LEFT HAND DRIVE

MIDLAND LHD Suppliers of new & used LHD vehicles, variety in stock. Left hand drive cars wanted. Tel: 01543 414 307.

LEXUS

COUPES (Soarers) direct from Japan, right hand drive V8, twin turbo and 3 litre models, new and used. Importer of London: 0181 203 3399/ 0161 764 8861.

GS300 98R, (98 Spec), Dark Green Met/ Leather, 11K mls, £29,700. Hilton Toyota. 01952 222654.

LEXUS Harrier GX300 New High Performance 4 x 4 off-roader with luxury leather & walnut interior. Call for a test drive. Intercar: 0181 203 3399

LS400 94M Actual black 21k or Lecerne Silver 45k FSH Offers in excess of £20000 Hannop (Mob) 0831 109516/ 0161 459 0006

LS400 94 L, FLSH, 64K, blue, warranty, immac. £20,500. 01829 445912 H / 01894 257612 W.

LS400
Mark 3 D.H.P.
Gold Badges
R-Reg
8,000 miles,lady owner,
Fjord Mist/
grey hide interior,
£36,000
07771 650000.T

LOTUS

ELISE August 98 78 miles only metallic paint every conceivable extra inc. stack CD & upgraded speakers. Cost £27,800 no premium required private sale Tel: 01277 650697, daytime

ELISE Brand new, unregistered, aluminium/black lthr, full spec. Small premium. 01565 632695

MAZDA

MX5 97, 888 DEX, BRG, 1.8ltr, E.Win. FSH. to warranty. Offers over £11,750. 01227 369196.

NEW MX5 Test Drive Today! Choice of 10 avail. tel Hascop Mazda Wembley 0181 795 5045

WANTED MX5 / MX6 / 626 up to 50k with History. Colin Lewis. 0181 459 0006/0831 109516

MERCEDES WANTED

MOLE Valley pay premium prices for low mileage Mercedes. Please phone 0831 404172.

WANTED wanted, All Mercedes, any miles/condition. 01628 526088/ 0831 123911 now.T

REGISTRATION NUMBERS

THE ONLY COMPANY SPECIALISING IN REGISTRATIONS WITHOUT A SUFFIX OR PREFIX • PRE 1963 • IN APPEARANCE A NON DEPRECIATING ASSET BE SMART BUY ONE OF OUR MARKS
MARKS FOR CONNOISSEURS
1975 23 YEARS 1998
Retail Motor Industry Federation
McMel & Co Ltd
PHONE FOR PRICES
TEL: 01277 20 40 20

200 AAF	780 BTU	313 DNM	ETH 823	701 FTV	736 GXT	4 JDB	KP 5963	LRK 642	NCC 438	OBM 781	POW 770	1 RUP	TLN 123	USU 210	7875 VX	WPO 140	XUJ 492
235 ABP	610 BUV	821 DNO	ETL 045	FU 7872	687 GXU	JDO 840	KPB 583	LRM 353	NCE 49	OBV 483	PPJ 184	RV 7133	492 TME	UT 861	4082 VX	WPO 816	XUN 861
947 ACE	534 BVF	732 DNP	306 ETN	667 FUL	592 GYA	JEU 385	784 KPF	LRN 37	NCJ 543	OC 6444	PPK 56	RVO 225	546 TME	574 UTF	VXX 624	WPW 842	N11 XUN
8370 AD	850 BVN	895 DNR	908 ETO	827 FUO	785 GYT	JEX 821	294 KPJ	LRT 860	NCS 915	OCC 972	PPN 802	RVJ 256	751 TMK	UTM 4	1 VY	WPW 148	XUO 364
9471 AD	233 BVO	DNR 673	541 ETV	FVC 272	267 GYU	JFL 560	705 KPK	LSJ 927	ND 6608	OCL 662	PPO 727	347 RVT	778 TMK	483 UTW	VYC 855	WPX 111	L88 XUS
70 ADG	BW 2	137 DNU	EU 4203	785 FVP	34 GYU	JFL 807	757 KPL	LTC 793	3467 ND	OG 1342	PPR 464	RVU 622	42 TMU	UUJ 81	VYF 808	WPX 446	XVH 544

For Full List With Prices Dial-A-Fax On 0336-413735. Press 'Start' Or Trans/Rec On Your Fax.Calls cost 50p per Minute.McMel & Co Hunter Hse Shenfield CM15 8NL
A Minimum of £100 or 10% deposit secures any mark subject to availability and our terms and conditions. Open 9am to 5pm Mon-Sat. (10am to 4pm Sun for Sales enquiries only)

FOR A FULL LIST WITH PRICES
DIAL-A-FAX
ON YOUR FAX MACHINE & PRESS 'RECEIVE' OR 'START'
CALL: 0336 413735
WHEN INDICATED.

SKODA

OCTAVIAS & Felicias Ex-stock Private & Fleet welcome Contact Vernie Wood Adams & Sons Ltd 01572 747215 Fax 01572 747334 Open Sat/Sun (9-5)

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY

BENTLEY Turbo R LWB, 1997, Black garnet, cream interior, 13,000 mls, 3 yrs warranty, service history. £90,000. 01707 644642 / 0378 116659 Herts

BENTLEY CORNICHE 1981 56X, FSH, £15K Conv from RR, immaculate. £29,960. 01883 652842.

BROOKLANDS 94 M. Sherwood Green, Magnolia & Green piped hide, Sports seats. Record player etc. FRRSH. 58k mls. Exc cond. £39,850. Tel: 0370 471155.

SELF DRIVE
ROLLS-ROYCE AND BENTLEYS
Drive in luxury all year round!
Arrive at that special occasion in style!
The most competitive rates! Weekend specials!
HANWELLS OF LONDON
Tel: 0171-436 2070 Fax: 0171-436 3110
Open Sunday 11 - 4

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY

CORNICHE Convertible by MPW, 1982, 55,000 genuine miles, FSH, 12 months mot, 2 previous owners from new, White coach work, beige interior, looks and drives like brand new, £34,500 ono. 01582 601634.

SHADOW II Oct 80, 66k mls, Burgundy. EverFlex black roof. FSH. £10,500. 0181 500 1977

SILVER SERAPH April 98, Royal blue, Barley hyde, 1,400 mls, surplus vehicle, offers around £130,000. Can be sold this week. 01756 730389 eves / 01756 797779 day.

SILVER SHADOW 75 P reg. 68,000 genuine miles with service history. Same keeper since 1977. Runs superbly however needs some cosmetic attention hence £4,750. 0171 272 9821 eves.

T2 Ultra Cond. Full spec, CD, hunting kit, 109k, VFSH, £12,750. Tel: 0181 525 0647 N/C.

REGISTRATION NUMBERS

NE NUMBERS 0191 520 2200 0378 585 858
PO Box 1, SUNDERLAND, SR2 7YS

AA 3 £25000 • 1 GHM £[illegible] • M444 TTY £[illegible] • S1 MEN £[illegible] • 904 AGK £1450 • GJ 165 £550 • 51 MAX £[illegible] • 8470 SR £[illegible] • 816 APS £595 • G3 GJW £850 • G3 MCC £[illegible] • 82 EFF £[illegible] • G2 ART £595 • 1 GOW £[illegible] • 819 MEO £[illegible] • STL 916 £[illegible] • 818 BAY £[illegible] • HCS 338 £1495 • 175 MXL £1195 • S70 REY £[illegible] • BBC 17 £[illegible] • HO 257 £[illegible] • M1 ORE £[illegible] • A101 STU £[illegible] • B1 XBY £[illegible] • 818 HUT £[illegible] • 818 MOW £[illegible] • B507 SUE £[illegible] • 516 BPS £[illegible] • JA 19 £12500 • MBO 218 £1450 • TBK 1 £[illegible] • 988 BRT £1150 • 4 JAA £4500 • N1 FLL £[illegible] • VSU 168 £[illegible] • C1 ARY £4500 • J1 ARK £1950 • 8 NY £[illegible] • WAX 1E £[illegible] • 816 CSB £[illegible] • 815 JCM £[illegible] • 818 PCM £[illegible] • WF 9407 £[illegible] • 80 DFR £2450 • 4 JDB £[illegible] • PEW 782 £1150 • 98 WMG £1450 • 2580 DN £1150 • JOO 989 £1450 • P11 NER £1450 • WNA 2 £[illegible] • 816 DPB £[illegible] • JEK 628 £1350 • G3 PJB £[illegible] • WY 1587 £[illegible] • 88 DTR £1950 • JW 5 £[illegible] • PMO 458 £1695 • WY 8849 £[illegible] • G3 EDD £850 • JWY 829 £2450 • 818 PUL £[illegible] • 7 EDS £[illegible] • C229 JON £490 • 70 REM £2450 • 1 FBG £7500 • J10 SSH £1850 • 816 REX £1950 • DAZ 329 £1950 • FBS 1 £[illegible] • JSU 737 £750 • R16 KEY £1750 • F40 ETA £1250 • F1 SON £[illegible] • K16 TTH £850 • R1 CRN £2450 • M600 SCL £1950 • FK 9143 £1350 • KEV 84Y £750 • R17 SLW £1950 • SLK 97W £[illegible] • 6695 FN £[illegible] • K1 MXU £850 • RN 9700 £1995 • B2 SLD £2500 • FOW 1E £4950 • KLN 311 £1950 • R10 NNY £4500 • E62 TVR £550 • FT 8361 £1550 • LES 784X £[illegible] • S60 77B £2350 • WYG 859 £[illegible] • G4 RYJ £2500 • L1 EXY £1450 • S60 TTM £2950 • A7 XKR £[illegible]

D K REGISTRATIONS
Sudbury (01787) 312222
MANY THOUSANDS OF NUMBERS AVAILABLE FROM OUR COMPUTER LISTINGS

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY AUTHORISED DEALERS

JACK BARCLAY
On Saturday 12 September
We are open from
10am - 8 pm
Visit the showroom
and view our range of
Rolls-Royce & Bentley
motor cars
Please call for further details.
Berkeley Square London W1.
Tel 0171 629 7444
Sunday 0850 629744
http://www.bbi.co.uk/jackbarclay/
GUARANTEED MOTOR CARS

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY

TURBO R 1989 model (F reg). Tudor red/ magnolia hide, piped red, 80k, stunning, FSH. Bargain £23,950. 0411 874088.

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY WANTED

BENTLEY/ Rolls UK No 1 Buyer Top Prices Nationwide Cash/Bankt. 0860 619464/01227 472095

WANTED. Rolls & Bentley models, any miles/cond. Tel: 01628 526088 or 0831 123911.T

SAAB AUTHORISED DEALERS

A selection of quality used Saab models including Convertibles at comprehensive prices. Freephone Kentish Saab for full stock list on 0800 513900 http://www.kentishsaab.co.uk

SAAB

9-3 2.0 SE Conv, Maranel, Imola red, April 98, 3K, mint, £22,950 ono. Tel: 01707 643570 Herts.

900 CONVERTIBLE 96N 2.3i SE Auto Le Mans Blue, Beige Leather, Power Hood, Walnut, A/C, ABS, E/W, E/M, 6 Stack CD, Alloys, FSH, 18,000 miles. £21,995 01491 573014

95 96R, 2.3 SE Turbo estn, 4 mths old, black, cream lthr, CD, elec sts, alloys, 2,000 mls only, immac. £26,500. 0171 834 9140

SAAB
Save £1,500s
ON UK PRICES
BUY YOUR NEW RHD SAAB IN EUROPE.
AMBERWOOD DIRECT LTD
TEL FAX 01425 279022

SAAB

CONV 2.0 Turbo SE 97 P. Blue Met Grey Lthr. Wood Fascia. Blue Hood. 6 CD Auto Changer. Air Con. Alloys. 21k, FSH. £24,495 ono 01784 457727 (Private).

SUBARU

CATALUNYA Impreza turbo, May 1997, multi CD, 11k miles. £21,500. Phone: 0171 6036603.

IMPREZA Turbo Saloon new unregistered. Leather, a/con, 17" wheels, Hi rear spoiler, Hp spoiler or quickshift. Please red. Full warranty. Genuine cancelled order £27,600 Cross Country Vehicles Tel: 01993 776622, e-mail: crosscountry@btinternet.com

IMPREZA Turbo Saloon, '97R, Green Met/ sports seats, FSH, 12Kmls. £20,495. All facilities. 01452 730070/ 0836 275440.

TVR

CHIMAERA 500 P reg. 1997 10k pearlescent red magnolia hide CD Tyr wrnty £29,995. Tel: 01277 375181 or 01277 375186 or 0860 799062

CHIMAERA 4.0, 96R, Biarritz blue, magnolia leather seats with blue stitching, blue carpets, PAS, A/C, alarm, 8K miles only. Mint cond. £28,000. 0181 349 4119.

CHIMAERA 4.0 96N Dark blue Met/Mag hide PAS 14K FTVRSH £26,495 Nick Name 01483 414800/ 0468 257944 T

CHIMAERA 4.5 R Rosso red/mag, immac, FTVRSH. £30,500. 01277 375757 0 / 07970 260414 M.

GRIFFITH 500 (96N) Silver. Dark blue/half hide. FSH. PAS. CD. 12,000 miles, immac. £30,500. 0171-4396697 M-F office hrs.

TVR WANTED

MOLE Valley pay premium prices for low mileage TVR's. Please phone 0181 394 1114.

TOYOTA

98R Landcruiser VX Auto Diesel. Pneumatic suspension. Earliest possible delivery. Open 7 days Main Dlr. Tel: 01483 234242

TOYOTA

CHEAPEST Toyotas possible. The Toyota Shop really do try harder. 01520 722556 anytime

LANDCRUISER. New model, VX auto, Red, eth, 0 mls, a/c £22,800. Tel: 01207 571 122

RAV 4 GX 3dr. 96N 2.0 auto met blue twin SR, 1 lady owner. Low mls. Illness forces sale. FTSH. As new. £11,995. 01702 214647

VAUXHALL

SCOT GROUP LTD
OFFER THE FOLLOWING
NEARLY NEW CARS
SAVE £000's OFF
NEW LIST PRICE
98R Vectra 2.0 GLS, 5 Dr a/c £[illegible]
98R Vectra 2.0 GLS Estate a/c £11,[illegible]
CHOICE OF COLOURS IN ALL MODELS
MILEAGES 8-12000
BALANCE OF MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY, H.P./ LEASING/ CONTRACT HIRE AVAILABLE
TELEPHONE:
01382 567373/ 0385 352623
FAX: 01382 267286

VOLKSWAGEN

NEW 1998 Beetle TDi, sports package, alloy wheels, CD, AC, etc. 1 of the first in London. £37,500. 0181 977 4924

VOLVO

850 T5 GLE estate, 94M, Auberdine, A/C, leather interior. £15,250. Tel: 01865 891170

V40 2.0 SE Green 96P RHD, heating & winter packs, take of Seats, volvo ext warranty, like new, must sell. £13,450 ono 0117 968 2327 (Bristol) eves.

V70 2.5 LPT AWD Est. '97, demo + 1 company director. 18K mls aqua pearl met/aluminium int. Est pack, traction, a/c, volvo warranty until May 2000. FSH, £22,995. JF Hay Car Sales 01670 386888.

هدية من الأهل

go

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12 1998

MERCEDES

190D dark blue, FSH, 71K, excellent condition, 1 previous owner. £9,000. 0171 6032674.

200E I reg, electric sunroof/ windows, petrol. £10,500. 01634 377160 / 0589 809778.

230TE 92K Auto, Only 56K, 7 seats, pearl met, ac, EFR, ESR, PAR, alloys, CD, FMBSH, alarm. £15,500. 01225 873808.

280SL C reg, AC, Nautic Blue, heated Valour trim, ABS, all elecs, alloys, alarm, TNT, 80k, FMBSH, VGC. Reluctant sale £13,995. 0181 5140165.

280SL Auto, 94 M, silver/black lthr, alloys, CD, 28k mls, immaculate, one careful lady owner £37,500. 01342 712366.

300CE 1992, Black/grey lthr, 1 owner, body kit, a/c, FSH, VGC, 115K mls, 1 yr MOT. £14,250. 0181 5520916 / 0585 561 665.

300E Diesel, 24V, auto, '94L, 1 own, FSH, extras, 71,000 mls. £14,495. 01539 741000 T.

300SE Automatic G Reg low mileage Midnight Blue, soft cream leather, air cond, elec front seats, alloys, stereo radio/ cassette, single owner, immaculate Tel: Mauri 0958 365 356 or 0171 586 9158 office hours

300SL Conv Auto 92 Red/cream lthr FSH immaculate ex-celeb owner Full Dealer facilities £29,950. Performance Motors 01253 720104/0831 561286.

300SL 24V Auto, 27k, 1993, H/S tops, rs, 1 lady owner. £36,950. Willing to p/x. Tel: 01455 233869/636012/ 0840 682622

300SL 89, 47,500 miles, met diamond blue, H/S tops, back seat, FMBSH. £17,500. 0468 714000.

300SL E reg, Signal red, rear seats, service history, VGC. £17,500. 0151 678 1214 / 0831 433449

320 SL 95M, Immaculate, 33K mls, Red/ Cream leather, alloy wheels, tracker, CD changer, FSH, £42,995. 01794 322221.

320E Avant Garde, auto, 96N, 1 own, FSH, 66,000 mls, a/c. £19,998. 01539 741000 T.

400SEL 92I Total Spec, Blue/tan hide, FSH, 1owns, absolutely superb £14,995 0181 298 1747 T

500 SEC 1990. Red, cream leather. Air con. Cruise. Electric column. CD. FSH, immaculate throughout £12,450. 0161 439 6328.

500 SEL G reg 130k Blue/Grey lthr 1 prev own FSH £9,950 0181 7864065/ 0033 609844863

500SEC 1984, 75k mls, dark blue, cream leather, FSH, A/C, cruise, alloys, perfect condition. £9,950. Tel: 01923 827005.

500SL Auto 8 reg. Red/cream hide int. Hard/soft tops, cruise control, air con, Sony CD stereo. FMBSH excellent condition £17,850. Ref/N. Tel: Day 0181 969 8929 Eves 0171 586 1666

560SEC 89F 110k met green cream lthr FSH fully loaded VGC priv sale £12,000. 01277 355967

600 SEL 92 Top of the range, personalised plate, every extra, Black/grey, 72K, T&T, exceptional condition, £31,000 ono. Tel: 01245 327332/ 0685 256 186

A170 TDI Avantgarde. Clutchless, good spec del mls avail now. List plus £2k Fax: 01752 268794.

C180 Esprit, auto, 96P, Red, sunroof/ cc, 27k, £16,200. 01732 840258 or 0802 429074.

C180 Sport, 98, Auto, azurite, climate, CD, 5K miles, as new. £21,000. 01798 869220.

C280 1996 white blue interior electric windows Tax MOT FMBSH 1 owner 52k as new £12,000. Tel: 01708 559634

C200 Elegance, N reg, 94, FSH, VGC, £14,995. Tel: 01708 451934.

CLK200 Eleg auto UK supplied silver 98R 8k mls leather A/C ESR EFM RS £33,495. 01276 28783

CLK320 Elegance. S reg. Silver/ black hide. Climate, ESR, EMS, rain sensor, CD. Under list offers. 0181 422 4222/0498 764268

CLK320 Auto elegance, black/ black lthr, AC, alloys, CC, 10 CD, Sept 98. £44,950. 0973 145646.

E200 Avant garde auto EW ESR Sept 97 7k, black green met immac cond. Quick Sale £26,500. 0121 4581616/ 0378 284637

E200 Elegance Auto 1996, 25K, CD, FMBSH, white/black cloth. £21,995 ono. 01222 810654.

E220 95N, Azurite Blue/ Cream lthr, FSH, a/c, alloy wheels, CD, 63K mls. £18,750. 0370 368 564/ 01268 418000 T.

E280 late P reg. Black green/ mushroom lthr 17,000 miles fully loaded FMBSH £26,950. Tel: 0171 604 3730 or 0171 309 5394 or 0467 348034

E280 T M reg 7 sts AC CD FMBSH Dk Met Green 88k mls 1 own £16,450 Surrey J11 M25 01932 856140/0374 840926

E320 94M 4dr saloon auto air con sports suspension full electrics met paint 36k 1 owner FMBSH excellent condition £19,950 ono. 01142 890748/ 0181 983 6267

E320 Estate Auto 94 L 7 seats. Leather. Blue black. Alarm. Extras. 67k mls. MOT tax. FSH. Superb. £17,500. 01628 628871.

S280 95M Light Met Blue/Blue lthr AC Cruise Twin A/bags Climate Immaculate £18,999 01784 464823/ 07771 510832

S280 1996 showroom condition, doctor owner, all options, FSH, ac, lthr £28,000. 01703 636024.

S320 1996 N Reg Silver/ grey leather, fully loaded, automatic, CD stereo, 12,100 miles, FSH, Excellent condition. £29,960. 0410 352359 (London W14)

SAVE Money on all new Mercedes models. European Car Imports Tel: 0181 889 4848. Fax: 0181 889 7500

SL280 94 L, 24V, 5 sp, auto, 30k mls, met blue/black, mush lthr, H/S top, elec/sts, z/sts, cruise, climate, 8 whole alloys, alarm, FMBSH, immac cond. £36,950. Phone: 0181 346 5319 Private.

SL280 95M Blue black/ grey lthr, 15K, FMBSH, air. CD, elec seats, z/seats, £41,500. Tel: (w) 0116 2330911/ (h) 0116 2702368

SL280 95M bright silver/black lthr R/seat 16k FMBSH £39,960. 0181 4284186/ 0181 9515521

SL320 24V, 95, Tourmaline green, mush lthr, 1 own, FSH, 39000 miles, EM sts, alloys, rear seats, CD, cruise, fully loaded, as new. £43,995. All Facilities. Hesson Motor Group 0191 266 8686 (0410) 802648/ 802649.

SL320 94M only 19,500 miles white/black leather, auto air, rear seat, heated seats, electric memory seats, cruise control. Price to sell at only £36,995. 01162 665749

SL320 95, Blue black/mushroom hide, ac cond. Racing wheels, 1 year warranty, CD, tracker, 26K, CC, £46,500. 0181 7851149

SL320 96, 26k, Tourmaline green/ mushroom lthr, rear seat, alloys, elec mem seats, cd, FSH, 1 lady owner. £50,000. 01189 891962

SL320 Jan 96 M, Azurite blue, 28k mls, FMBSH, mushroom hide, fully loaded, immac £39,995. 0171 2961199 / 0410 565097.

SL320 V6 S Reg only 150 mls, Met Silver blk lthr full UK spec. £56,500. Tel: 03857 42625 or 01271 882870

SL500 96M tourmaline green leather excellent condition 57k £50,950. Tel: 01590 670148

SLK 1998 S, Obsidian black, quartz leather, A/C, CD player, 800 mls, £34,995. Tel: 01494 521860

SLK 230K Auto, 99 model. Will be S reg, but still to be collected. Silver, Black/Red lthr, usual extras + a/c pack, CD unit & over carpets. £35,480. 0171 274 6998

SLK 230, Kompressor, 1998 R, UK supplied, Met Silver, Black leather int, aircon, CD player, auto, only 2,000 miles, £34,995. 01580 763602.

SLK 230 Red, Quartz lthr, A/C, CD, 2,000 mls, June 97, grgd. Immac. £33,000 ono. 01562 740497

SLK 'MB SLK' Silver, black lthr, A/C, CD, tracker, FMBSH, 7,800 mls. £40,000 ono inc plates. 01992 812270 / 0802 779061

SLK200 98R, LHD 6kkm. Silver, blue/black lthr ac, 1 lady owner £25,995. Tel: 01753 884866

SLK230 Komp. 97P reg. Black/ green. Black leather. AC package, CC, CD, tinted windows, tracker. 22k. £32,000. 0181 532 0698.

SLK230 Kompressor 3/98 Silver red/black leather, alarm, cruise, adj steering, 5,000 miles. £34,990. Tel: 01942 888255

SLK230 K, 98R Linerite/quartz lthr A/C CD 1,000 miles UK supp tracker as new £34,250 ovno Tel: 01274 688060

MERCEDES AUTHORISED DEALERS

Mercedes-Benz Retail
www.mercedesretail.co.uk
Signature USED CARS
Mercedes-Benz

WOKING MOTORS 01932 228811
SUNDAY 07775 621142

98R SL60 Green Black/Mushroom Hide, 3,000 miles	£87,950
96P SL500 Tourmaline Green/Mushroom, Glass Roof	£59,950
95M SL500 Black/Mushroom Hide, Climate Control	£54,950
95N SL500 Azurite Blue/Mushroom Hide, Rear Seat	£49,950
93K 500SL Nautic Blue/Mushroom, AC, R/Seat, 8 Holes, Mem Seats	£44,950
93K 500SL Blue Black/Black Hide, AC, R/Seat, 8 Holes, Mem Seats	£43,950
94M SL320 Azurite Blue/Mushroom, Climate, 8 Hole Alloy Wheels	£39,950
89F 300SL Red/Mushroom Hide, 16,000 miles	£30,950
90H 300SL Metallic Red/Mushroom, Rear Seat, Memory Seats	£29,950
98R S320 Limousine Obsidian/Grey Hide, Memory Seats, Air Con	£42,950
95N S320 Brilliant Silver/Grey Hide, Climate, Electric Seats	£30,950
95M E320 Coupe Blue Black/Mushroom Hide, Air Con	£26,950
97P E220 Cabriolet Azurite Blue/Mushroom Hide, 9,000 miles	£38,950
97R E280 V6 Elegance Azurite Blue/Black Hide, 5,000 miles	£35,950
98R E300TD Avantgarde Azurite/Grey Hide, Mem Seats, AMG Wheels	£36,950
96P E200 Classic Estate Silver/Grey Cloth, 7 Seats	£26,950
97P V230 Ambiente Zircon Blue/Grey Hide, Auto, Twin Roofs, AC	£21,950

EDGWARE ROAD 0181 205 1212
Open 7 days a week

SOFT TOPS — inc. 2 YEAR WARRANTY

94M E320 Cabriolet Pearl Blue/Blue Leather, 5 Spd Auto, Elec. Windows, Heated/Elec Front Seats + Mem, Airbags, Air Conditioning, 8HA, 32,000 miles	£39,950
96N E320 Cabriolet Blue Black/Black Leather, 5 Spd Auto, Elec. Windows, AMG Alloys, Climate Control, Elec.Sts, 24,000 miles	£46,950
89F 300SL Arctic White/Blue Leather, Blue Hood, Auto, Rear Seat, 15 Hole Alloys, ABS, Tracker, Rad/Cass, 30,000 miles	£22,950
91J 300SL 24v Blue Black/Mushroom Leather, 5 Speed Automatic, Air Conditioning, Heated Front Seats, Rear Seat, 8 Hole Alloys, 47,000 miles	£36,950
95M SL320 Tourmaline/Mushroom Leather, 5 Speed Automatic, Climate Control, Rear Seat, 8 Hole Alloys, 13,000 miles	£47,950
96P SL320 Smoke Silver/Mushroom Leather, 5 Spd Auto, Climate Control, Electric Seats, Rear Child Seat, 8H Alloys, 10,000 miles	£53,950
97R SL500 Smoke Silver/Mushroom Leather, Glass Hard Top, 5 Speed Auto, Climate Control, Rear Child Seats, Electric Seats, 8 Hole Alloys, 5,000 miles	£69,950

GREAT WEST ROAD 0181 560 2151
Open 7 days a week

95M C180 Elegance Tourmaline Metallic/Mushroom Cloth, Automatic, Electric Sunroof, ABS, 30,000 miles	£15,995
98R C180 Elegance Green Black Metallic/Grey Cloth, 5 Speed Auto, Air Conditioning, Ex-Demo	£22,495
98R C200 Sport Azurite Metallic/Black Cloth, 5 Speed Auto, Air Conditioning, Alloy Wheels	£24,995
97R C200 Elegance Estate Azurite Blue/Grey Cloth, 5 Speed Automatic, Glass Sunroof, 98 Model	£22,995
98R C200 Sport Estate Vivianite Green/Black Cloth, 5 Speed Automatic, Air Conditioning, Latest Model	£25,995
98R E200 Elegance Azurite Blue Metallic/Grey Cloth, 5 Speed Auto, Air Conditioning, Radio/CD	£27,995
98R E200 Elegance Estate 7 Seater Obsidian Black/Grey Cloth, 5 Speed Automatic, Air Conditioning, Headlamp Wash, CD	£31,995
97R E320 Avantgarde Azurite Blue/Grey Leather, Auto, Air Con, Electric Driver Seat, Cruise Control	£36,995
97R E320 Elegance Estate 7 Seater Green Black/Grey Leather, Automatic, Air Conditioning, Alarm, Stereo, Cruise Control, Alloys	£43,995
96P SL500 Designo Designo Orange/Leather Seating, Panoramic Glass Top, Climate Control, VAT Q	£59,995
97R S600 Limo Brilliant Silver/Grey Leather, Flagship Car, 7,700 miles, VAT Q	£69,995
98R CL600 Coupe Aqua Blue/Black Leather, Full Specification, Ex-Demo, VAT Q	£79,995

SL 600
Blue Black with Mushroom hide
94M, 35,000 miles.
17" Duchatelet alloys.
Every possible extra
Excellent condition
Essential private sale
£45,000
Tel: 01438 814635(Home)

SL 320
May 1996 'N'. Blue/black met. Mushroom leather, elec seats, elec steering, CC, rear seats. FMBSH, new tyres, tracker. 10 stack CD. Only 21k miles
£46,500
Tel: 0181 85 25246 or 07775 506434

320 TE
1993 'L', FSH, metallic grey/grey leather, 7 seats, 5 speed auto, ABS, air bag, air con, electric seats, electric roof, CD stacker, 8 hole alloys, recent service, new tyres, MOT'ed, excellent condition, drives like new, 86k.
Just £18,495.
Call David on: 0181-309 6242 (Mon-Fri) 0181-302 2202 (Eve/WkEnd)

320 CE CABRIOLET
1993. Pearl Blue, cream leather. Stunning car, many extras, cruise control, sirens, Harlex, Walsin, elec seats, FMBSH. £23,550.
01625 829848 (h)
0802 783648 (w)

E500 MERCEDES BENZ
Jan 95. Azurite blue/blue soft leather. UK specification and supplied, fitted with every single extra. The last of a very rare run of fast sports saloons. An immaculate example with FMBSH.
Private Sale. 43,000 miles
£26,000 o.n.o
01561 320701 · Office hours

C180 ELEGANCE
98 L
31,000 miles
Immaculate Condition
Almondine with Grey Interior
Garaged
£12,500 or px with BMW 325 Convertible
Tel: 01277 652218

230TE Estate
Almandine Metallic
1993, 89k Miles,
FMBSH, Auto, Sunroof,
7 Seats, ABS, 10 CD,
8-Hole Alloys,
Tomber, MB Alarm,
Excellent Cond.
£12,450 ono
01622 710 680

MERCEDES BENZ Specialists — EXCELLENT EXCHANGE ALLOWANCES

98S CL500 Green Black	£78,995	97S SLK230 Saone Yellow	£35,995
98S S500L Green Black	£68,995	98S E240 Eleg. Green Blk H/Spec	£35,995
95M SL500 Blk/Blk 27K	£54,995	98S E230 Eleg. Azurite H/Spec	£31,995
98S S420 Stretch Limo	P.O.A.	97P E230 Eleg. Azurite H/Spec	£27,995
95N S320 Azurite 21K	£29,995	96 E230 Silver 6 Door	£51,995
98S S320L Silver	£48,995	94 E280 B/Blk 6 Door	£27,995
98S S280 Azurite H/Spec	£35,995	98S C200 Eleg. Total Spec	£29,995
93L SL320 Blue Blk/Blk 58K	£38,995	98S C250 TD Auto A/C	£24,995
90H 300SL24V Nauti/Beige 48K	£33,995	98S C180 Eleg. Air Con	£25,995
97 SL320 Choice of two	£54,995	98P C230 Koro Vivianite 24K	£23,995
98S SLK Vivianite AMG	£36,995	96 C200 Sport Azurite 36K	£17,995

0181 993 7722
A40 - Western Ave, London W3
Visit our website www.psmotors.com
All prices are negotiable

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE

LANDCRUISER Thinking of buying or selling? Contact Grosvenor Garage Guildford. Largest UK Selection. Both Petrol & Diesel avail. for demo. Open 7 days. 01483 234242

SSANGYONG KORANDO
Brand new unregistered.
2.9 Mercedes Diesel.
Choice of colours including metallics. Alloy wheels. Choice of 50.
Unbeatable, unrepeatable £9,995 + VAT.
Specialist Cars Milton Keynes
01908 374000
0836 258758

JEEP

CHEROKEE 2.5 Diesel sport, black/ grey int, 96N, 78,000 mls, ex-Director's car FSH, £11,250 ono 0181 694 0970 Mon-Fri 9-5.

CHEROKEE 93L, Ltd auto, black, grey hyde, A/C, 60k mls, £10,850. 0181 695 0058 day 01689 860674 eves. · No canvassers.

G. CHEROKEE 4.0 ltd SE, P, Rosewood met, Saddle lthr, CD, 33K, FSH, £21,995. 01444 771576

GRAND Cherokee 4.0LTD, 96P, 12k mls, black, FSH, exc cond, 1 lady owner really! £23,495ovno, London 0468 402118.

GRAND Cherokee Ltd, 97R, Amethyst/charcoal lthr, sunroof, 8K mls. £26,000. 0181 8530123.

LAND ROVER

DISCOVERY TDI 1995 (N) 5 door, 7 seats. Metallic blue, skyline spec. FSH. Landrover warranty. 38,000 miles. 1 owner. £15,250. 01992 576010.

DISCOVERY 3.9 V8 ES auto 5dr 95M fully loaded lthr AC alarm side steps twin SR 64k mls. FSH. £12,995ono. 0161 682 3402

FREELANDER June 98 S XEI S/W, Epsom green, 3,000 miles, CD, tracker, ER, WBC, 2 years free servicing, as new, £19,950. Tel: 01227 262477 Kent.

RANGE ROVER

4.0SE Auto, 97P, Rioja red, grey leather, A/C, 35k mls, 1 careful owner, FMBSH, £26,500. 01932 840009(H) / 01773 607962(W).

4.6 HSE 1995(N), Altai Silver met, grey lthr. 1 private owner from new. FMBSH. 1 year tax/MOT/ extended warranty. Only 31,500 miles. 18" alloys, twin driving lamps & nudge bar. £27,500. Tel: 01403 210050.

4.6 HSE 96 P. Avalon blue, grey leather. FMBSH. 27k miles. RR warranty to year 2000. Full spec. Excellent condition. £31,495. Tel: 01494 881368.

4.6 HSE. June 97. Niagra with ash leather 18,000 miles RR warranty with FSH £33,950. Tel: 01992 893183 or 0836 226119.

4.6 HSE 96(P), Niagara Grey. Stone leather, 25,000 mls, LR warranty, FLRSH, £31,995. Tel: 0467 217900

4.6 HSE 97R, 13k, 1 own, Oxford blue/ lightstone lthr, FSH, wty, £38,500. 01477 532277

MG

MGF 1.8i 97R, Silver, 12K mls, PAS, hard top, ABS, rad/cass, A1 condition. £16,495. 01883 717149.

MGF VVC BRG Half lthr & wood PAS ABS Alrm 1 own FMGSH 35k al con £15,450 01943 870414.

VVC Flame red. R. Only 4,060 miles. Leather. Wood. PAS. Immaculate. Warranty till Sept 99. £17,900. Tel: 0115 9663444.

MITSUBISHI

SHOGUN 3000 V6 LWB, 1996(P), 5dr, auto, 26k, 1 owner, FSH, A/C, full electric pack, side steps. £19,950. Tel: 01428 724786.

SHOGUN 98R 2.8 GLS LWB diesel new shape manual FMGSH, 6k. £24,500. 01748 833278

MORGAN

+4 new, latest spec, del mile, Indigo blue with stone leather, other extras. £28,250. 0410 820990.

4/4 1995 1800 as new, 6,000 m, Connaught green/tan lthr, high spec. £20,500. 01326 250418.

PORSCHE

911 Cab Carrera 2/Tip 93K Blk/blk lthr-red pipe CD 30K FPSH VGC £35,995ono 01202 734968.

NISSAN

SKYLINES direct from Japan - new and used. Quicker than a Ferrari and more exclusive. For further information and a test drive call Intercar of London 0181 203 3399

PERFORMANCE CARS

CORVETTE 1998 Models in stock. Warranty. Call American Car Imports Now 0181 889 4545

LOTUS Carlton 1994 L, 49k, recent new engine, gearbox, FLSH, £26,750. Tel: 01449 767842.

PORSCHE

911 Carrera 2 cabriolet tiptronic very good condition H reg. 10 stack CD £29,995. Tel: 01277 373178 or 01277 375181 or 0850 799061

911 C4 Cab, 90G, 84k mls, FPSH, black, lthr, AC, 17", £32,960. 0181 813 8337 / 0836 563353

AUTOBAHN
Independent Porsche Specialists
01203 338533
0973 338533 Sunday

911 CABRIO C4
95M - 19,000m - F.P.S.H.
Iris blue, Marble Grey Leather
A.C., 18" 3 piece Alloys
Full Body kit with Turbo Spoiler
System I Alarm, Tracker, Immobiliser
Sports Seats, 10 Stack CD
As seen in 911 + Porsche World regularly
Absolutely Stunning if you are looking for a 911 Cab, this is simply the best there is
£57,995
Office: 01702 552044
Mobile: 0378 430848
Home: 01702 475156

911 Carrera 2 Coupe
91H, Red/full leather, FPSH, 1 owner, 48,000 miles, cup alloys, air con, on board computer, CD. Bought 4 months ago from Porsche garage for £32,000.
Moving abroad: quick sale £29,500.
01189 588 846 Day
0181 4080528 Eve
0468 717791 Mob.

911 C4 Cab black 92J 47k FPSH CD AC power hood VGC £36,500 ono. 0181 390 9869

911 C4 Targa 1990(H), Guards red/linen, 48,000 mls, FPSH, immac, £27,495. 01223 328555

911 SC Targa 1981 Silver, immac. 77K, 1 owner from new. £16,000 (and No plate) 0171 4331290.

911 Turbo 1991 slate grey classic leather interior 39k FPSH £61,995. ono. Tel: 0161 287 9999. or 07970 199999

911 Turbo 4 1996N silver 19k sports seats CD full leather immaculate throughout FSH £77,980. Tel: 0121 313 0150

911 T4 M reg. Met silv & silv lthr 22k dig'and immac £75k 01629 840488 h / 01543 411545 o

911 Turbo 4, 96P, met black, 7½ K mls, spec. plate, tracker, spts sts, immac. £77,500. 0468 330218.

928 S4 1990. Guards red, grey leather, 82k mls, FSH, good condition, 928 register. £15,995ono. 01386 881230(H)/443992(W).

928GTS Auto, Aug 93. Maroon. Reg J5 LOT. 46k mls. Beautiful car. £30,000. 01325 284711.

944S2 Coupe Blue 1989 FPSH 68K miles, very good condition, £12,000. Tel: 01666 837454

993 Coupe, 95N, Silver, blue leather, 35K, 1 prev owner, FPSH, no A/C, £45,950. 0171 252 3260

993 Early, low mileage. Stunningly beautiful Iris blue grey sports seats lowered 18" wheels CD immobiliser etc. £44,000. P/X poss. Tel: 01302 742628

996 Coupe 98R, red/grey lthr, s/r, + more, Del miles. £69,995. 0114 2503005 Office / 0385 995565.

996 Coupe tip March 98 500 mls high spec cost £72,500 best offer over £65k. 01902 824637

996 S reg. Ocean Jade, Nephrite green leather, sports wheel, C.C, sound system. List £66,500. Sale £64,500. 0976 611703.

996 Tiptronic, Ocean blue, March 98, 7K, high spec, £72,500. 01923 772048 / 0468 864287

BOXSTER June 98, Silver, full B/red leather, s/seats, 17" wheels, AC, lux pack, CD, 3.5K mls. £45,000. 04111 39634.

BOXSTER 97 P LHD, Ocean blue/ black lthr, h/top, CD, spts pack/ exhl, 17" alloys, htd sts, 14K mls, FPSH. £31,995. 07775 504782.

BOXSTER 97R silver/black lthr, lux pack + extras inc. hard top. 5k miles only. £43,950. 01625 590962. (H) 01565 650117 (W)

BOXSTER New S reg, met black, fully loaded (£10K extras). LHD. £35,995. 07971 263822 · WL.

BOXTER Tiptronic. 1998. Silver. Full red/brown leather. Virtually every concievable extra inc air con, T/C, lux pack, hard top, sports steering wheel, CD etc. 5k miles. List £47,000 best offer secures. Available immediately. Tel: 01332 865112 or mobile 0374 107478.

BOXTER S Reg Metallic Black 1,500 miles 17" alloys, immac. £39,000. Tel: 0171 610 1601

PORSCHE WANTED

WANTED wanted. All Porsche, any miles/ condition. 01628 526088/ 0831 123911 now. T

GENERAL

15,000
New & Used Cars in One Location
www. virtual-showroom.co.uk

WORLD OF CARS

97R Renault Clio 1.4 RT 5dr, Auto, Caspian Red, PAS, 3517 mls	£8,999
97R Rover 416Si Tourer Estate, Nightfire Red, ab, 17282 mls	£9,399
98R Renault Laguna 1.8RN Estate, Hayfire Red, S/R, 12620 mls	£10,399
97R Mazda 626 2.0 GLXi 5dr, Red, Air/Con, 14395 mls	£10,899
97R VW Golf 1.8CL 5dr, Auto, Red Chilli, PAS, 3424 mls	£11,499
97R Mazda 323 1.8 Executive Auto, Silverstone, Air/Con, 18348 mls	£11,999
98R Peugeot 806 2.0 SL, Dragoon Blue, 7 Seats, 4208 mls	£13,799
98R Peugeot 406 LX 1.8 Family Estate, Blanco White, Air/Con, 6357 mls	£13,799
97R Renault Megane Scenic, 2.0 RXE, Fjord Silver, Air/Con, 4254 mls	£13,899
98R Toyota RAV 4 2.0 GX 5dr, Black, Air/Con, 5005 mls	£14,999
97R Vauxhall Calibra 2.5 V6, Black, Air/Con + Leather, 20159 mls	£14,999
98R Volvo S40 2.0 Cdi, 4dr, Black, Air/Con + Leather 13176 mls	£14,999
97R VW Passat 1.9 TDI 110, Blue Metallic 10800 mls	£14,499
97R Rover 820 Vitesse 2.0 2dr Coupe, Midnight Ble Air/Con + Lthr, 20255 mls	£15,299
97R Peugeot 306 2.0 GTi-6 3dr, Gold Metallic, Air/Con + Leather, 17312 mls	£15,799
97R Vauxhall Omega 2.5 Reflection Auto, Champagne Gold, Air/Con, 489 mls	£15,499
97R BMW 316 SE 4dr, Cosmos Black, Air/Con, 12732 mls	£16,999
97R Renault Espace 2.0 TR 7 seat Auto, Imperial Blue, Sunroofs, 4420 mls	£16,999
98R Toyota Previa 2.4 GS Auto 4dr, Green Metallic, 10012 mls	£16,499
97R Vauxhall Omega 3.0 Elite 24V Auto, Diamond Black, Air/Con + Leather	£17,599
97R Vauxhall Omega 2.5 CDX Auto Estate Moondust Silver Air/Con, 14008 mls	£17,999
97R Nissan 200 SX Touring Auto, Kumo Black, Air/Con + Leather, 8347 mls	£18,499
97R Renault Espace 2.2 Rxe Turbo Diesel 5dr, Apache Red, Air/Con, 12,689 mls	£19,999
97R Mitsubishi Shogun 2.8 GLS T/Diesel 5dr, Hanover Green, Air/Con, 15789 mls	£21,499

SPRINGFIELD RD, BURY ST EDMUNDS
TEL: 01284 766969

REGISTRATION NUMBERS

1 BT	Offers £40K +	Tel: 01491 628228
123 DAD	£3,500	Tel: 01202 683371
15 WH	£3,999 Private Sale	Tel: (01525) 370001
2000 DH	Offers over £10,000 No VAT	Tel: 01142 500157
300 AMW	£2,500 + transfer	Tel: 01934 622611
A1 NTS	On retention £1,500	01623 797 016

CENTURY REGISTRATIONS
5 Corn Market, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1JL
SUMMER SALE

ABA 611 £1650	707 DTT £1100	KOR 603 £1800	7795 PH £1650	WB 88 £1400
ADT 215 £1850	681 EJJ £800	KRD 27 £1800	PJT 632 £1500	6501 WJ £900
395 AFH £900	EOG 5 £1950	KRG 152 £1400	3813 PK £1200	WJB 781 £1400
478 AMR £1800	703 ETH £1300	LAM 181 £1650	PRY 118 £1150	400 WPJ £800
AR 8565 £1950	FJR 601 £1250	LLJ 83 £850	PYB 992 £600	WRD 473 £1100
44 APG £2000	7848 FM £850	LXL 250 £800	RBD 776 £1400	WUN 530 £750
ADT 395 £700	GEL 294 £1200	LSV 173 £500	495 RBJ £1800	XAW [illegible] £850
AY 8745 £1200	GDX 646 £750	301 MCG £1800	RLC 253 £1700	
583 BCG £800	142 GOL £1000	438 MOD £1400	RLJ 377 £1200	
BFN 780 £1800	683 HAA £700	MPO 687 £1600	870 RMH £2250	BARGAIN BUYS
BPR 743 £1800	448 HFR £800	MTA 887 £850	741 RPH £1400	DOD 357 £450
808 BRU £2200	880 HLR £800	MDL 718 £800	RSY 986 £900	278 KOV £400
384 CDL £1400	250 HOJ £750	MMQ 745 £800	RWB 887 £1400	MMY 274 £450
CL 9800 £3600	291 HTT £800	NOD 783 £900	512 SFA £900	NGX 75 £750
788 CLD £850	638 HTW £800	NPR 803 £900	911 SJH £250	OSV 851 £450
CPF 420 £1400	JRD 701 £1800	OMR 262 £750	SJL 44 £4750	OVS 865 £350
414 DBJ £1400	3485 JN £1450	[illegible] 916 £1800	SWD 812 £1200	UJT 750 £450
295 DKG £800	58 JOT £1750	875 PAE £1800	TFA 654 £850	UJT 854 £450
868 DOC £1950	114 JOT £800	737 PBH £1300	[illegible] 512 £850	USV 416 £450
DPL 257 £1500	KOL 538 £900	PCR 412 £1800	8584 TH £1800	USY 651 £450
DSK 844 £800	KLY 900 £1600	POG 185 £1400	521 UJH £900	

Tel. 07000 889889 Mobile 0468 735485
+ TRANSFER FEE

MARKET RESEARCH 33 DAISY HILL DRIVE, CHORLEY PR6 9NE

AA 9562	2,800	FPW 972	1,200	846 KAB	1,800	MPA 700	2,000
AFM 77	3,250	FSO 1	10,000	KEH 258	1,200	MPH 6W	600
AH 2485	3,000	(Not FS 01)		KJK 680	1,200	MPW 29E	500
AHK 828	1,400	13 FW	3,600	569 KMA	1,300	6133 NC	1,400
615 AW	3,000	87 GOR	2,000	497 KMB	1,500	RDM 761	2,000
504 BTA	400	GOW 257	1,200	962 KMG	1,500	1224 RK	1,300
123 BV	2,400	GU 6849	£800	750 KYC	600	8181 RK	2,300
903 CLM	1,400	H4 NON	1,000	LAB 305	1,800	RN 3199	1,500
CSK 685	800	HAZ 401	1,000	5 LDS	3,600	SFR 523	1,200
372 DAH	1,800	HAZ 402	800	LEO 30Y	900	SJG 400	3,000
DBZ 95	1,200	HK 4741	1,500	LEO 739	1600	9078 SM	2,350
(Not DB 295)		HM 9810	2,200	792 LMT	1,400	541 SMD	1,800
238 DFD	1,000	HRF 110	1,000	MB 3731	3,800	335 TMB	1,800
11 EJW	4,000	HW 62	1,200	A3 MBT	600	M3 UFO	1,600
494 EJW	1,800	JAG 601Y	500	M3 RCX	2,500	VMW 88	1,800
EK 7631	1,250	JJW 19	1,500	MIB 9669	800	XLX 35	1,500
425 ELC	1,000	JK 8376	2,600	MIII LKS	1,200	XOW 755	450
ESB 74	1,500	108 JLB	2,400	ML 5:1	2,000	XUH 4	1,500
FAZ 1221	800	KA 7792	2,600	(Not MLS 11)		XUH 5	1,500

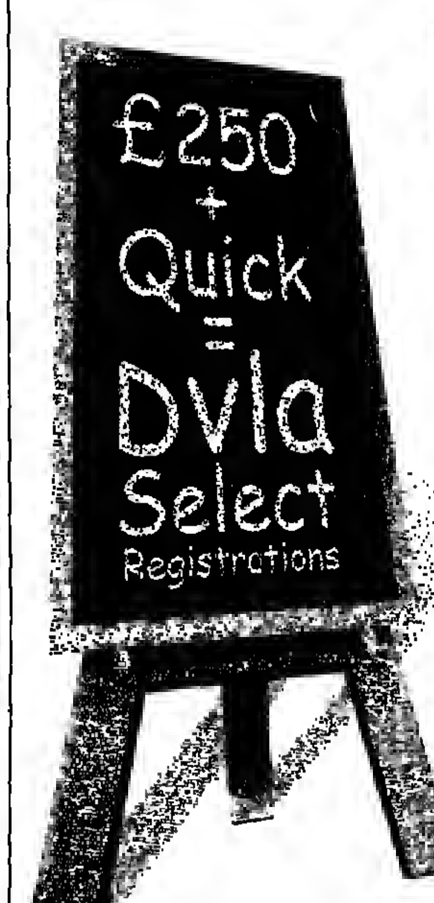
DVLA AUCTION OF ATTRACTIVE REGISTRATION MARKS
If you are contemplating a bid please consider the benefits of expert advice, we provide comprehensive information, essential when coming to a bid decision; otherwise you may inadvertently bid too much or too little.
PHONE: 01257 482305 FAX: 474745

F40 STR	Best offer over £3,000.	01443 813069 eves weekends
IUI 330	also £UI 330. Offers over £550 each.	Tel: 0831 891011
JAS 51N	£4,000 on retention	0131 6683070./ 0131 4417231
LEW 520	On retention £2,500. Also 580 LEW £1,800.	0121 233 3067.
M 69	£18,000 ono	01255 861494 or 07771 800561
MA 200	£10,000. ono	Tel: 070 500 45181
MBZ 200	On retention £3,450	Phone: 01342 811184
VEV 5	On Retention. O.I.R.O. £4995	Tel: 01962 853113
VKL 11	On retention OIRO £4,000	01277 364744 Anytime

RENAULT

SCOT GROUP LTD
OFFER THE FOLLOWING NEARLY NEW CARS
SAVE £000's OFF NEW LIST PRICE
98R Laguna 2.0 RT Estate a/c + s/r £11,450!
98R Laguna 1.8 RT 5 Dr a/c + s/r £10,250!
98R Laguna 1.6 ST Sport 5 Dr + s/r £10,100!
98R Megane 1.4 RT 5 Dr PAS + s/r £8,500
CHOICE OF COLOURS IN ALL MODELS
MILEAGES 9-12000
BALANCE OF MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY
H.P./ LEASING/ CONTRACT HIRE AVAILABLE
TELEPHONE 01392 667373/ 0385 352473
FAX 01392 207205

REGISTRATION NUMBERS



DVLA SELECT REGISTRATIONS

You like to do business with straight-talkers, you hate hidden charges and small print, and you like to be given real choice. Simply call DVLA.

Never before has buying a personalised registration direct from DVLA been so easy. Secure yours by simply choosing any of our prefix year letters - A,H,J,K,L,M,N,P or R start from an all inclusive £250, while B & S start from an all inclusive £399. All prefixes are available with numbers 1-20 and from J onwards a choice of certain higher numbers. Then round it off with 3 letters (unfortunately I, Q & Z are not available). Then, with your Visa, Mastercard or cheque book to hand, call our Select Registration Hotline.

Competitive prices plus a swift service puts DVLA Select Registrations in a class of its own.

DVLA SELECT REGISTRATION HOTLINE
0870 6000 142
Open 9am-5pm Monday-Friday

Personalised Registrations from DVLA (from only £250)

DVLA Classic Collection Auction
NEXT SALE THE TOWN HALL, LEAMINGTON SPA ON 30TH & 31ST OCTOBER 1998
PHONE FREE NOW (24HRS) 0800 60 30 90 FOR YOUR SALES CATALOGUE PRICED £7
www.dvla-som.co.uk

REGISTRATION NUMBERS

REGISTRATIONS 4 VEHICLES
Tel: 0116 2425353

MAKE-A-PLATE, THE CHEAPEST WAY
Choose a number between 1-20 (Plus selected high No's)
B14 TES
PRICES FROM £125 + VAT + TRANSFER - 3 DAY TRANSFER - SELLING
Obvious names/words eg. A1 ANS are not available

FAX U BACK
0336 424873

E.Mailers: R4V@dial.pipex.com

PO BOX 4444, LEICESTER, LE4 0ZH
OPEN 7 DAYS 9am TO 8pm Fax 0116 253 8391
SOME + VAT, ALL + £80/£105/£160 TRANSFER FEE. MORE AVAILABLE AND WANTED.
ALL NUMBERS SUBJECT TO OUR TERMS & AVAILABILITY. WE BUY NUMBERS FOR CASH

Equities claw back early losses

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
646	453	Allied Domecq	465	- 30	5.3	11.4
412½	355	Bulmer (HP)	335	- 1	5.6	14.4
42½	8½	Burn Stewart	11	..	19.3	..
795	432	Diageo	550	- 13	4.1	24.0
900	755	Glenmorangie A	830	..	2.1	19.3
325	225	Highland Dist	232	- ½	4.8	10.7
215	134	Matthew (Chas)	134	- 3	12.1	4.6
99½	35½	Mitchell W	35½	..	..	..
2021½	798½	SA Breweries	806½	..	3.9	12.7

BANKS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1616½	1121½	ABN-AMRO	1123½	- 87½	2.9	15.6
1345	851	Abbey Nat	1140	+ 25	3.5	16.8
1032	585	Alliance & Leicr	842	- 10	3.3	15.9
1000½	587½	Allied Irish	748½	- 11½	2.6	20.8
458½	280½	Aus New Z	303	- 4½	6.6	..
6075	3237½	Bank America	3369½	+ 118½	..	..
613	431	Bank Scotland	585	- 24	2.2	15.1
1996	1058	Barclays	1117	- 51	4.4	10.2
1332½	886½	Bk of Ireland	925	- 13	2.7	15.0
5109½	5200½	Chase	5453½	+ 250	..	..
1706½	1565½	Commerzbk	1706½	..	3.2	..
54.9½	23½	Dai Ichi Kan 1	26½	- 12½	1.4	58.2
5368½	3518½	Deutsche Bk	3516½	- 118½	1.8	..
1206½	1133½	Espirito Santo	1159½	..	3.2	..
531	144½	Fuji Bank 1	182½	+ 4½	2.5	30.4
3073	1125	HSBC	1147	- 33	3.7	10.5
2002	937	HSBC Hkg	1132	- 26	5.8	10.4
1000	648½	Halifax	730	+ 15	4.2	20.1
84½	587	Irish Perm	645	- 25	2.5	18.1
1090	637	Lloyds TSB	652	- 33	3.6	16.7
918½	713½	Nat Aust Bk	713½	- 37½	4.7	..
1244	751	Nat Westm	912	- 40	4.6	15.7
873	455	Northern Rock	491	- 6	2.8	16.3
1140	595	Rbl Bk Scot	780	- 32	3.6	14.5
1050	415	Sthnd Chartd	930	- 12	5.7	7.3
6164½	6164½	Wells Fargo	6164½	..	1.9	..
439	314	Westpac	314	- 7½	4.1	..
400	300	Westpac Int	330½	+ 1½	3.8	15.9

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
332½	260	Ann Street Grp	289	..	5.3	8.9
1195	765	Bass	835	- 15	4.2	14.5
81½	50	Bsk Ny (ne Bsk)	57	..	4.8	16.9
192½	144½	Bphouse Bnw	161½	- 2½	4.9	11.4
162½	84	City Centre Res	84	- 1½	4.7	12.8
700	390½	Compass Grp	575	+ 23	1.0	37.8
342½	225½	Diageo P A	323½	..	3.5	10.9
384½	234	Enterprise Inns	362½	..	3.7	15.1
552½	425	Fullr Sm A	502½	..	3.6	14.2
538	346	Greenalls Gp	357	+ 3	6.0	8.4
700	521	Greene King	572½	- 3½	4.0	10.4
358	212½	Grmpb Chic Gp	224	- 1	1.9	15.5
281	204	Hanry Hansn	268½	..	1.8	8.5
2175	1750	Inv J	1755	..	4.0	8.5
78	46½	Inv Bucknesst	49	..	4.9	6.8
317	242	Mansfield	243½	..	4.1	9.3
360½	203½	Marston Thmp	220	- 2	5.0	9.6
472½	350	Morland	357½	..	3.7	9.5
364½	213½	Old Eng Pub	270	- 3½	1.7	15.5
35	21½	Paramount	21½	..	..	..
950	562½	Pizza Express	641	- 14	0.7	28.9
317½	205	Ransdens (N)	213½	..	2.9	23.2
388½	132½	Regent Inns	156	- 3	4.6	10.3
237½	136½	SFI	148½	- 4	1.0	10.5
950	701	Scot & Newc	785½	- 4½	3.7	14.8
303½	197½	Stag & Leisure	207½	..	3.9	..
361	227	Vaux Group	287½	- 5	5.3	11.1
341	167	Whitbread 3B	177½	- 6½	1.5	19.1
1145	700	Whitbread	813	+ 2	4.0	14.6
568½	410	Wolverhmptn D	412½	- 1½	5.9	8.9
568½	312½	Yates Brts	312½	..	1.4	10.6
827½	595	Young &	597½	..	3.4	21.2

BUILDING MATERIALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
76½	49½	Aggregate Ind	56½	- 1	3.6	17.0
268	186	Anglian Group	189	..	6.6	10.3
447	37½	BPB	293	..	3.8	13.1
118½	71	Bpcgeorge Bld	76½	..	5.9	6.3
62	35½	Blackfrs	38½	..	1.5	44.0
427	245	Blue Circle	263	- 8½	5.5	9.0
149	96	Bmaison PLC	95	- 3½	7.6	11.5
945	644	CRH	751	- 16½	1.5	18.7
63½	45½	Calstream Ptry	45½	..	10.6	3.7
155½	107½	Case	127½	..	6.4	11.0
215½	131	Caudwn	134½	- 1½	5.8	18.7
116½	81	Cawdor cl	85½	..	5.4	..
130½	49½	Colefdm Grp	50	..	10.5	3.6
425	212½	Cryan (J&J)	415	..	1.6	22.5
120	75	Dryan A	100	..	6.9	4.6
62½	34½	Emcrete	36	..	..	23.7
197½	122	Etrnit	136	..	9.1	11.1
159½	101½	Galbe & Dansk	153½	..	3.9	10.2
200	107	Graham Grp	116½	- 1	5.7	9.7
262	177½	Hartwd Ch	182½	..	6.6	12.3
245	203	Hanson	231½	- 10½	4.8	16.3
365	145	Heywrth	155	..	7.3	8.2
173½	96½	Hewetson	114½	- 2	8.2	6.2
292½	75½	Heyrs Wtm	210½	- 1	6.4	7.1
66	37	Ibstock	41	- 1½	2.2	8.0
365	256	Johnson	315	..	4.8	17.0
16½	5½	Lilleshall	6½	..	10.6	6.2
129½	79½	Marley	83½	..	7.6	6.6
162½	105	Marshalls	126½	- 3½	4.0	7.7
345½	244	Meyer Int	273½	- 3	5.9	11.0
77½	53	Norcros	60	..	3.6	18.6
149	62	Pilkington	64	- 1	7.8	25.0
24	11	Pilkington 7%	12	..	..	..
196	100½	Polypipe	109	- 1	3.9	6.1
1400	701	RMC	767	- 11	4.7	10.3
117½	78	Redland	92½	..	6.6	10.6
142	77½	Rugby Group	79	..	6.6	9.6
102½	76½	Russell (A)	76½	..	5.7	8.7
219	128	SIG	153	..	6.4	7.8
3½	1	SWP	1½	..	..	..
257	147½	Sharpe & Fisher	150½	- 1½	5.2	9.3
9½	5	Spring Ram	6½	- ½	1.9	..
133½	6	Tarmac	30½	..	8.6	9.7
125	82	Tilon	82	..	8.1	8.2
639½	379	Travis Perkins	412½	- 1	3.3	13.7
107½	60½	Tubes	63½	..	5.9	6.7
372	180	Ultramar	220	..	2.6	18.6
870	276	Wolseley	276	- 12	5.3	6.9

CHEMICALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
191½	91½	Albright & Wilson	91½	- 2	6.0	0.8
142½	77½	Amdee Ind	128	+ 4½	4.6	10.6
128	72½	Anderlecht Gbt	72½	..	3.2	11.1
100	61½	Albione Ex	71	- 1½	12.0	11.6
3153½	2603½	BASF DM	2759½	+ 37½	3.3	..
1109	715	BOC	780	+ 14	4.5	17.3
581	331½	BTP	382½	- 10	4.0	17.2
76½	14½	Bayne Chem	18½	..	10.0	5.8
3221½	2131½	Bayer DM50	2553½	+ 3½	2.7	..
193½	142	Blagden	143½	..	2.5	9.2
126	94½	Brent Chems	94½	- 1½	4.0	10.7
345½	197½	Bt Vita	222½	..	5.7	10.3
187½	129	Bruntnr Mond	165½	..	5.9	10.2
296	186½	Canning (W)	187½	..	6.1	9.8
229½	135	Cmr Technology	155	..	3.1	30.0
474	234	Courtaulds	446½	..	3.7	27.1
465	248	Croda	249½	- 9½	4.2	14.1
370½	203½	Deeller	364½	+ 1	3.0	14.5
178	84	Elementis	86	- ½	2.4	10.9
313½	226½	Ellis & Everard	227½	..	5.8	9.3
78½	53½	Euro Colour	57	..	5.5	9.9
94½	38½	Hickson	48½	- 1	3.3	7.1
3216½	2096½	Hoechst	2427½	+ 34½	2.2	..
1244	555	ICI	566	- 12	5.7	19.8
307½	189	Inspec	326½	..	2.5	16.4
193½	120	Kalon	150	..	4.8	14.3
850½	518½	Lporter	521	- 7½	5.0	18.5
75	29½	Meridian	29½	- ½	16.2	2.8
35	25½	Metrolect	25½	- ½	6.9	8.8
390	225	Minorco	288½	..	5.4	13.3
231	141½	Scapa	149½	- 2½	5.1	9.8
1761½	1437½	Takeda Chem	1857½	- 8½	0.6	20.6
248	147	Vectura	160	..	3.9	12.1
665	510	Westmnstr R	517½	..	6.5	6.3
240	131½	Yorks Sep	193½	..	9.2	10.4
440	276½	Yule Catto	278½	- 3	4.7	10.5

CONSTRUCTION

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
58½	19½	AAF Ucs	35½	- ½	..	4.6
375	230	Abbey	290	..	4.4	8.0
480	332½	Alfen	336	..	3.5	15.9
217½	114	Amec	152	- 1½	4.5	12.3
815	400	Amey	600	+ 2½	2.4	14.1
750	247½	Andrews Sykes	342	..	2.6	14.5
286½	180	Aggreport	184½	- 3	1.6	18.5
48½	36½	Ashtead	36	..	6.2	5.6
46	35½	Balfour	38½	- ½	5.8	8.2
341	156½	Barratt Dev	173½	- 1	6.6	7.7
335	120	Bestrs	149	- 2	6.1	18.9
401½	221½	Bellway	256½	..	4.6	8.5
50	18½	Bemrose	29½	..	..	..
95½	46½	Bett Bldrs	47½	..	4.6	6.6
784½	498½	Berkeley Gp	509	- 5½	2.5	8.5
170	113	Bett Bros	135	+ 1	6.4	3.8
315	180	Bost (Hmprt)	180	..	5.9	6.7
276½	157	Bovis Homes	181	..	7.8	6.5
47½	30	Brazennose Gp	35	- ½	5.8	14.1
155½	76½	Bryant	89	..	7.8	6.5
129½	95½	CALA	103½	..	..	..
141½	83	Clarke T	97½	..	8.5	5.9
42½	19½	Cordwn	20	..	..	..
129½	83	Countryside	86	..	4.7	6.8
145½	92½	Crest Nicholson	98	..	5.1	6.5
122½	68½	Cussins	70½	- ½	6.0	5.4
288	160	Eee Group	232	..	3.8	13.1
229½	15	Galliford	16	..	8.3	9.3
1180	850	Gleeson (M)	850	..	2.7	12.5
175	80	Hartford Eqn	80	- 1½	7.4	5.4
212	126	Hawden-Stuart	134	- 2	3.1	11.3
28	18½	Howard Hdgs	19	..	5.6	18.8
788	368½	Jarvis	520	- 8	1.9	19.7
252½	164½	Kellett	170½	- 1	3.9	18.7
290½	199½	Kier	220	..	4.1	11.1
397½	309½	Lang (J)	324	..	3.7	13.8
131½	111½	Lang S 4% Cu Pf	120	..	6.7	..
15	8½	Lovell (Y.D.)	12½	..	..	..
212½	159½	Mowlem Plc	209½	..	3.8	13.1
101½	106½	McAlpine (A)	125	- 1½	1.5	7.4
191½	111½	McCarthy & S	113½	..	3.3	8.3
142½	78	McInerney	127	..	1.0	14.5
253½	171½	Morgan Sndall	201	..	3.5	9.7
397	301	Morrison Const	309½	- 5	2.4	15.6
150	72½	Mowlem (J)	115½	- 1	5.0	9.9
259½	139½	Persimmon	160½	- 2½	7.9	6.4
109½	74½	Petersfbrough	80½	- 2	6.5	5.5
128½	112	Pochin	116½	..	3.0	12.9
158½	98½	Prowting	102½	..	5.6	6.3
199	123½	Redrow	141	- 3½	3.1	10.4
325	222½	Spandex	317½	..	1.5	16.6
94½	53½	Sean Hill	65	..	5.5	11.4
143½	110½	Try Homes	121	+ 1	7.9	9.8
239	137½	Taylor Woodrow	155	- 1½	3.3	10.0
308	199	Tilbury (Douglas)	217½	- 2½	4.6	13.5
75½	17½	Tr Gerco	17½	+ ½	4.3	6.6
80	62	Vanbrooksst	81	..	7.9	..
139½	90½	Warnhomes	109½	..	6.0	..
68	27½	Ward Hldgs*	32	..	5.6	..
272½	165½	Westbury	169½	- 1	5.4	7.3
18	10½	Wilkinsons	12½	- ½	..	1.7
191	105½	Wilson (C)	115	..	6.2	7.9
733	493½	Wilson Bowen	524	..	3.2	9.5
143½	93½	Wimpey G	109	- 2	2.1	8.3

DISTRIBUTORS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
252½	183½	Action Cp Dpts	204½	..	1.7	17.0
355	230	Adam & Harvey	332½	..	12.1	4.0
24½	9½	Alexanders	14½	..	..	..
2	1	Ass Br Eng	1½	..	..	25.1
457	318½	BSS Group	322½	..	6.5	10.1
70½	10½	Bearing Prdcts	11½	..	..	..
35½	30½	Bogod Al	30½	..	4.5	4.9
735	590	Brammer	592½	..	5.7	8.9
16	18½	Brickwnd Gp	13½	..	1.9	21.5
113½	72½	Bss Fmngs	95	..	7.0	8.3
372½	300	Calgary	318	..	5.6	8.8
206	9	Cir Group	9	..	1.0	..
175½	132½	Cleveland	136½	- 3	4.1	8.7
54½	31½	Cock (DC)	38	..	8.4	7.5
139½	96½	Dg Motors	108½	- 1	10.6	5.2
125½	102½	Demmac H	107½	..	3.8	7.1
278	151½	Diploma	183½	..	3.9	17.7
601	367	Electcomponents	521½	- 3½	3.1	10.3
186	54½	Everett Elec	95	..	7.6	10.1

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
122	78½	European Mkt	79	..	9.7	6.0
265	191	Fard Halstnn	194	..	11.9	5.7
97½	39½	Fitz Indmar	82½	- 1	5.8	8.9
400½	212½	Finelist Gp	226½	..	5.0	..
38	14	Gardnrs	21	+ 7	6.6	9.2
82½	58	Glenchewtnt	58	- 1½	4.7	7.3
135½	89½	Goodings	105	+ 2½	4.4	9.2
30½	12½	HR Owen	16½	..	7.1	8.4
405	250	Headlam	290	+ 1	3.6	12.5
160	105	Holden Tech	107½	..	7.8	5.9
130	39½	ISA Intl	59	- 3½	7.0	8.2
250	136½	Inchcape	148	- 3	8.3	17.7
90	55½	Jacks (Wm)	56½	..	7.7	5.3
543½	351½	Kwik-Fit	429½	- 7½	1.9	19.3
614	402½	Lex Service	413½	- 17	5.6	9.6
123	75	Lookers	80	+ 2	1.2	5.2
575	351	Menzies (John)	527½	..	3.7	15.1
5½	1½	Middlesex	2	..	..	..
39½	14½	Midmastr	20	..	3.0	5.2
236½	230	Norbain	261½	+ 6½	4.6	12.6
281	157½	Northmotor	177½	- 5	2.1	11.8
342	169½	Parkco	181½	..	6.4	11.0
312½	155½	Pendragon	156½	..	9.1	8.9
355	122½	Perry Gp	122½	- 10	10.0	4.6
443	191½	Pentlns Farnell	195	- 7½	8.3	7.7
164½	100½	Quadric Group	107½	..	9.3	6.9
282	55	REAP	95	..	4.2	18.3
3	1½	Reece	1½	..	..	..
38½	21½	Reg	25½	..	..	..
12½	4½	Remploy	4½	..	..	..
5½	3½	Ross Gp	3½	..	..	8.4
112½	68½	Ryland	69½	+ ½	8.3	5.0
31½	22	SEP Indl	23½	+ ½	7.0	11.0
30	10	Salton	12	..	..	..
290	177½	Sanderson Bem	194	- 1½	4.6	6.2
67½	34½	Sedgwnmoor	36	..	7.1	6.4
272½	175½	Sykes	183½	..	4.7	0.7
195½	86	Tarmac Products	89½	..	11.5	4.9
235	132½	Trust Mdsor Grp	232½	..	1.4	4.6
440	305	UMECO	317½	- 5	2.8	14.6
124	74	United Oceans Gp	81	..	1.7	18.7
299½	195	Vardy (Reg)	195½	..	5.2	8.2
840	655	WF Elect	805	..	2.8	20.0
182½	96½	Wyko	95½	..	4.6	..
165½	113½	Young (H)	114	- ½	5.2	7.3

ELECTRICITY

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
619½	240	Br Energy	353½	- 1½	3.3	20.8
454	298½	National Grid	425	+ 10	3.6	21.4
700	470	National Pwr	525	..	8.4	11.1
900	701	PowerGen	826½	- 3½	4.4	12.9
608½	502½	Hydro-Electr	608½	+ 5½	4.8	13.5
537	475	Scottish Power1	583	- 3	4.4	14.1
634	487	Southern Electr	613	+ 5	4.8	15.9
625	522	Vindeyr	610½	- 12½	4.7	13.9

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1325	715	ARM Holdings	970	- 55	..	..
416	233½	Acal	270	..	5.0	9.5
1493½	690	Admtrall	1040	+ 10	0.4	48.1
50½	27½	Amstrad	27½	..	..	..
35	25	Avon	25½	..	6.4	8.4
51½	24	Acsys	51½	..	2.4	57
77½	43½	Aztec	45½	- 1	..	..
147	87	BICC	79½	- 2	1.3	..
67½	34½	Bellgrvnor	36	- 1	4.7	12.7
372½	175½	Bims	186½	..	2.7	12.7
195½	86	Bmc Products	89½	..	11.5	4.9
235	132½	Brad Motor Grp	232½	..	1.4	4.6
440	305	BUSCO	317½	- 5	2.8	14.6
124	74	United Oceans Gp	81	..	1.7	18.7
299½	195	Vardy (Reg)	195½	..	5.2	8.2
840	655	WF Elect	805	..	2.8	20.0
182½	96½	Wyko	95½	..	4.6	..
165½	113½	Young (H)	114	- ½	5.2	7.3

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
330	168	Aminograms	171	- 7	4.3	12.5
64½	40½	Enikem Hldt	43½	- 7	4.2	..
43	14½	Brierley Inv	14½	- 1½	20.7	3.7
493	345	Bntt Aerosp Tstk	464	+ 2½	6.5	9.6
277½	190	Cookson	190	..	7.7	8.4
613	350	DCC	352½	..	2.6	11.4
425	302	Gallaher	406	- 14	5.2	13.3
450½	236	Hunch Whmp	282½	- 9	4.4	..
565	343½	Imperial Tob	538	+ 17	5.1	13.0
335½	93½	Jardine Matth	117½	- 1½	12.6	5.1
94½	43½	Lonrho Africa1	47	+ 1	6.1	11.0
623½	420	Powell Duffryn	420	..	7.4	10.6
147	87	Standey	95	+ 1½	11.8	23.5
368½	159½	Swire Pacific	167½	- 3	8.1	5.4
393½	215	Tomkinsnt	232	+ 4	5.9	10.1
250	175	Unidare	180	..	6.7	8.6
570	340	Wardle Stevens	341	- 1½	7.7	9.9
242½	142½	Wassall	243½	- 1½	3.2	11.1
135½	46½	Wilmcott	48	- 1	12.1	7.9

ENGINEERING

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
312½	131	AMEC	133½	- 1	4.2	..
2125	1337½	ALSTOM	1337½	- 25	..	14.6
44	19½	ASW	19½	..	..	..
265	98½	Alumasc	134	+ 1½	7.9	6.1
214	129½	Alvest	172½	- 2½	2.5	9.0
385	215	Ascot	260½	+ 5	5.5	9.5
176½	130½	Ash & Lacy	139½	..	7.4	6.2
125	40	Avesbury Metal	43	..	5.6	4.1
535½	335	BBA	336	- 4½	2.4	12.5
230½	105	BTR	122	+ 14½	6.1	15.7
97½	68½	BWI	75½	..	5.3	8.5
92½	61	Babcock	67½	- 1	3.7	14.9
13	6½	Bailey (CH)	8	..	3.9	..
110½	50½	Barnes (Charles)	53	- 1	7.5	7.5
27½	2½	Beaufford	5	..	2.8	16.4
261½	179	Berisford	180	- 11	4.3	8.2
109	82	Bredt Cv Ub Ln	82	- 3	6.3	..
1285	845	Bunzl	897½	- 10	1.4	18.7
54½	36½	Bodth Inds	47½	..	2.1	..
20½	12½	Bracknell	13½	..	0.7	66
141	115½	Bridport	82½	..	7.5	9.3
587	367	Br Aerospace	394	- 7	2.5	11.1
172	180	Br Steel	180½	- 2½	12.5	8.5
159½	95½	Brooke Ind	136½	- 1	4.7	7.4
16½	6	Brunel	6½	..	9.6	3.8
107½	86½	Bullough	86½	- 3	8.4	8.1
36	17	Cairn	18½	- 1	7.2	37.1
217	87½	Carclo Eng	114½	- ½	12.0	5.6
233½	172½	Cashmn	172½	- 3	4.3	9.4
272½	172½	Chamberlin Hll	172½	..	6.7	7.2
780	470½	Chloride	456½	- 2½	7.0	16.6
175½	118½	Chemring	136	..	3.8	..
275	48	Clyde Blowers	48	- 2½	16.1	2.6
1247½	732½	Cobham	790	- 5	2.1	20.7
430	210	Cohen (A)	210	..	..	..
157½	105½	Concentric	157½	..	5.9	7.3
279½	122	Cookson	127½	+ 7	1.8	7.3
283½	151	David Brown	202½	..	2.8	15.2
511	242½	BIS	503	..	3.6	17.6
32½	16	Deco	16	..	..	8.7
50	29½	Energy Tech	29½	- 2	6.4	..
161½	110½	Expamet	135	..	3.9	11.1
228½	120	FKI	126½	+ ½	5.9	13.7
216	125	Fenner	125	..	4.3	6.6
11	5½	Fenner	7½	..	..	11.1
62	37	Firth Hldgs*	17½	- ½	2.1	16.3
185	101½	Firth Rscrch	105	..	3.6	10.6
455½	197	Flake	185	..	..	..
116	75	GEI Int	75½	..	6.5	6.6
206½	148½	Garton Eng	156½	..	6.5	9.5
331½	173	Glynwed	160½	- 2½	9.4	7.3
159½	91½	Haden Mcdn	91½	- 4½	4.3	3.4
356	190	Hardcastle	181	- 1½	5.2	8.1
297	95	Hall (F)	107½	..	10.7	4.3
140½	96½	Halma	180½	- 3	3.4	12.2
83½	60½	Hampson Ind1	61	+ ½	5.4	9.6
85½	32½	Hay (Norman)	50½	..	5.5	14.1
163½	42½	Network Tech	43½	..	3.7	4.9
372	216	Delta Intl	234½	..	4.3	16.4
111	29½	Pace Micro	57½	..	0.7	..
621½	345½	Prelude Lmp nv	365½	- 6½	1.4	15.9
98½	58½	Pleatnut	71½	- 1	..	..
311½	184½	Prestwich A	221	- 3	2.5	18.5
60½	21½	Prestwich	33	..	6.0	6.5
725	204	Pyrrot	498½	- ½	0.1	47.7
437	243½	Racal Elect	353½	- 4	2.1	..
97½	44½	Rotamec	50	- 2½	7.6	11.0
565	325	Renishaw	337½	- 10	3.4	19.7
1	0½	Rexame	1	..	.

ODDS ON 52
Can Hong Kong keep holding its economic nerve

BUSINESS

WEEKEND MONEY
PAGES 55 TO 64

BUSIESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12 1998

Trotman to stand down early as Ford chief

Founder's great-grandson ready to assume mantle of power in family carmaking firm

Trotman: British born

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

ALEX TROTMAN, the British-born executive chairman of Ford, yesterday announced his resignation, handing over the reins to William Ford Jr, the great-grandson of Henry Ford, the legendary founder of the company.

Mr Trotman, 65, was expected to resign at the end of next year but he said he chose to go 12 months early because the revamping of the company had proceeded ahead of schedule.

William Ford Jr is currently head of the company's finance committee and has been groomed as a successor at the behest of the Ford family that holds 40 per cent of the voting shares. He will be the first family member to lead the company since Henry Ford II bowed out in 1980 after 35 years at the wheel. Henry Ford I was in charge for only ten years from 1908 until 1918.

William Ford Jr will be responsible for finances and representation while manufacturing operations will report to Jac Nasser, who will move up from head of the motoring division to group chief executive.

Mr Trotman was born in Middlesex and educated in Scotland but took American citizenship in 1975 after taking an MBA at Michigan State University.

He started at Ford as a trainee in 1955 after four years in the Royal Air Force and rose to leadership positions in Europe and Asia before reaching the very top in 1993.

Mr Trotman said: "Over these past several months, the board has discussed succession following my retirement and has concluded that the roles of the chairman and of the chief executive officer should be separated.

"Jac is already running the largest part of the company and, with Bill as chairman of the board, we have tremendous strength and continuity as we move forward."

Maryann Keller, an analyst at ING Baring Furman Selz, said: "You can't possibly fault any part of Trotman's tenure as chairman."

William Ford Jr said: "The Ford Motor Company is my heritage, and has always been part of my life. I want to serve this company to the very best of my ability."

Ford: groomed as successor

Markets rally in spite of Japanese gloom

BY ASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

INTERTIONAL markets sufferednother rollercoaster day yerday as an unexpectedlyirm showing on Wall St helped to erase earlier sses prompted by Clinton bes and deepening econogloom in Japan.

In New'ork the Dow Jones industri average climbed more th 100 points in early trading investors took heart from thatest apology from Preside Clinton, some encouragi third-quarter earnings repts from hi-tech companies a renewed hopes of a cut in irest rates.

The nb on Wall Street helped uropean markets to reboun from heavy losses caused another hefty fall overnig in Tokyo stocks. The Nikkei dex slid 5.1 per cent, breachi the key 14,000 level, after th publication of data showin he economy contracting at aster rate than anticipated. Tkyo also dragged other Asia markets lower, with stocks Hong Kong closing down 3 per cent at 7,578.48.

The panese Ministry of Econor Planning said Japan's nomy had contracted by 0.8 r cent in the second quarteof the year, leaving GDP she 3.3 per cent lower on an ualised basis.

It wathe first time that Japan's OP has fallen for three consective quarters since compaive records began in 1955.

Mostdividual elements of GDP swed a decline, with consum spending down 0.8 per cen housing investment falling er cent and capital investme sliding 5.5 per cent during e quarter.

Taich Sakaiya, Economic Plannin Minister, admited that the gures were far worse than anipated and that the Govermt's own forecast of GDP gwth of 1.9 per cent was novlearly out of reach. Analystsare predicting that the econy will contract by 1.3 per ct across the year to March 31. Eisuke Sakikibara, the Japanese Vice-President for Finance who has been dubbed "Mr Yen" by the markets, added to the gloom by giving warning that the downturn is likely to persist into the autumn and that the country is "on the verge of a deflationary spiral".

The yen, however, continued to strengthen against the dollar as Clinton's woes and the repatriation of funds by Japanese companies helped to bolster the exchange rate. At one stage the yen had climbed to 128 to the dollar before settling later at 130, a rise of 3 yen on the day.

In London, shares continued to gyrate wildly, tumbling nearly 150 points in early trading to dip below the 5,000 level for the first time this year.

The Dow's stronger showing, however, dragged the market higher and enabled the FTSE 100 to close just 18 points lower at 5,118.6. The pound also stabilised after hitting a ten-month low against the mark on Thursday, closing marginally down at DM2.8411.

Other European markets also followed Wall Street higher to close with only marginal losses.

Although the FTSE 100 has swung in a 400-point range this week, it closed yesterday just 48 points lower than its Monday opening price. Traders admitted, however, that with this kind of volatility in the market it is far too early to say whether the bear market is close to running its course.

The markets face another anxious week ahead, with further developments expected in the Clinton impeachment case, G7 ministers due to meet in London on Monday and Alan Greenspan and George Soros to testify on the global economy and market volatility on Wednesday.

Commentary, page 52

Percy Bilton founded the firm in 1936. His children are believed to be split over Slough's offer

Feud-ridden Bilton faces £256m bid from Slough

BY FRASER NELSON AND JOANNA GEARY

SLOUGH ESTATES has launched a hostile £256 million takeover bid for Bilton, the property company whose independence has been protected by a family trust for 58 years.

Sir Nigel Mobbs, Slough chairman, has seized on a family feud dividing the five directors of the trust controlling 35 per cent of the Bilton shares.

If his bid succeeds, Slough will become one of the most powerful industrial property companies in the South of England with assets of more than £1.5 billion.

Sir Nigel's cash offer of 290p per share is understood to have been welcomed by Derek Bilton and Hazel Farrer, trustees whose late father, Percy Bilton, founded the company in 1936.

However, Slough believes they are opposed by the three remaining directors of the controlling Glenhazel trust — including Donald Bilton, 77, Percy's eldest son.

Derek Bilton and Mrs Farrer have been embroiled in a legal battle with the other three directors since August last year — arguing that they should not be directors of both the company and a shareholding trust.

Sir Nigel said: "These internal disputes have provided us with an opportunity to make our approach. Our takeover bid is full and fair and provides a solution to the problems that would otherwise be determined in the High Court."

Shares of Bilton, which had sunk from 288p to 212½p, jumped to 293½p yesterday, just short of Slough's cash offer.

The City said that Slough's offer may well flush out other prospective bidders who may have been put off by Bilton's complex ownership structure.

Sir Nigel said: "People have been casting their eyes over Bilton on an extremely regular basis because it is an underperforming company. But everyone has been put off by this trust."

GE Capital and Brixton Estates have been named as likely rival bidders.

The Bilton family dispute is understood to have erupted over the role of Ron Groom, the 68-year-old managing director who rejoined Bilton in 1995 - three years after resigning with a £1.1 million payoff.

Mr Groom yesterday rejected Slough's 290p-per-share offer on behalf of the board. Bilton's last reported net asset value is 323p.

Some rebel shareholders are understood to be concerned about Mr Groom's affection for Bilton's £3.5 million shooting ground in Berkshire and the £3 million salmon fishing rights in Deeside.

The control of the company will be decided by Glenhazel and its sister trust, which own 35 per cent of the shares, and Schroders, which controls a 17 per cent stake.

Slough is offering a cash-and-paper alternative bid worth 300p per share, which values Bilton at £264 million.

Carlton unlikely to mount full-scale bid for Arsenal

BY JASON NISSÉ

CARLTON Communications is unlikely to mount a full-scale bid for Arsenal, well-placed sources said yesterday.

Michael Green, Carlton's chairman, has been told that neither Danny Fiszman nor the Carr family, who own more than 50 per cent of Arsenal's shares, are prepared to sell out in any offer.

However, the club, where Mr Green's friend, David Dein, is deputy chairman, may be prepared to allow Carlton to take a stake of up to 30 per cent, made up of new shares, and give it a seat on the board.

Arsenal needs at least £60 million to pay for expansion plans either at its existing stadium at Highbury or at a new purpose-built ground if Islington Council blocks Arsenal's expansion plans.

Enic, the investment group linked to Joe Lewis, the Bahamas-based billionaire, is understood to be in talks to buy Alan Sugar's 40 per cent stake in Tottenham Hotspur. Mr Sugar is said to have rejected an 80p a share offer.

David Moores, chairman of Liverpool, has said that his family's controlling interest in the club is not for sale.

BSkyB, in which News International, the owner of The Times, has a 40 per cent stake, has purchased a 9 per cent holding in Manchester United, which agreed a £623 million bid from the media group earlier this week.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5118.2	(-18.0)
Yield	3.22%	
FTSE All Share	2383.63	(-12.04)
Nikkei	13916.98	(-749.05)
New York:		
Dow Jones	7652.61	(+37.07)*
S&P Composite	987.38	(+7.19)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	[illegible]*	([illegible])
Long bond	[illegible]*	([illegible])
Yield	5.18%*	(5.18%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	[illegible]	([illegible])
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	113.73	(113.69)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6855*	(1.6897)
London:		
$	1.6839	(1.6812)
DM	2.8415	(2.8444)
FFr	9.5377	(9.5409)
SFr	2.3364	(2.3367)
Yen	220.65	(225.69)
£ Index	102.7	(102.9)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.6880*	(1.6845)
FFr	5.6590*	(5.6490)
SFr	1.3875*	(1.3840)
Yen	131.05*	(134.30)
$ index	108.6	(109.5)

Tokyo close Yen 130.76

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Nov)	$13.55	($13.50)

GOLD

London close	$292.95	($2[illegible].75)

* denotes midday trading prices

Dale loses face in £17m bid race

BARRY DALE, the former chief executive of Littlewoods, who in his time has put together offers for Sears, Holland & Barrett and Littlewoods itself, was yesterday forced to concede defeat in a £17 million toiletries bid (Jason Nissé writes).

Nearly three months of detailed negotiations came to nothing after Creightons, the natural fragrance group that Mr Dale runs, had to admit it could not raise enough cash to complete an agreed deal to buy Potter & Moore, its rival.

Mr Dale must now return to the drawing board and face up to the expected slump in Creighton's share price on Monday when the shares are relisted after being suspended since mid-June.

The man once dubbed "the King of Warrington" was strangely silent yesterday, but a colleague said: "Barry could not understand why bankers would not jump to attention and write him a cheque for £100 million."

A WEEK IN THE CITY

The City found a new playground this week after BSkyB's £623 million bid for Manchester United caused a welter of interest in the previously ignored assets of the Premier League. Fans may have objected to a deal changing the focus of the club and the game, but Martin Edwards, Manchester United's chief executive, had little to grumble about, as he stands to make £85 million from the acquisition.

Shares in the company rose from 159p on Monday to yesterday's closing price of 21[illegible]p, 18[illegible]p lower than the 240p bid price amid fears of a protracted Office of Fair Trading investigation. BSkyB ended the week buying a 9 per cent stake in Manchester United.

Elsewhere Arsenal shares more than trebled in value after Carlton Communications announced it was looking at the club. Football shares across the board jumped on average 15 per cent.

Despite a spirited start to the week in Hong Kong the mood on international markets remained grim. Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, admitted that the US could not remain "an oasis of prosperity unaffected by the economic turmoil affecting the rest of the world".

Wall Street struggled after news of America's largest ever current account deficit and was not helped by the political uncertainty surrounding President Clinton.

The yen plunged after the Japanese economy suffered its third successive quarter of negative growth, following on from the Bank of Japan's halving of bank lending rates to 0.25 per cent, further fuelling concern of economic decline. The rouble slid to a new low when the Duma overwhelmingly rejected President Yeltsin's candidate for Prime Minister and the chairman of the country's central bank resigned. Two more banks, Credit Suisse First Boston and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, became the latest victims of Russian lending, with net exposures of £1.34 billion and £100 million respectively.

In Britain the mood was also subdued. The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee's refusal to cut base rates was softened with the assurance that it would not raise them again. The pound slid to its weakest level against the mark for more than ten months, and manufacturers attacked the MPC for not cutting rates after the CBI revealed that business confidence had plunged to its lowest level since November 1992.

For comfort and confidence many looked to the Farnborough Air Show. They met with the sight of Boeing, the beleaguered aircraft group, admitting that it had been too arrogant, too distracted and too self-satisfied, having let down customers with late deliveries. But Rolls-Royce kept its spirits up by announcing new orders worth £960 million.

Cheering, too, at Telewest, the loss-making cable company. It managed to win a prized place in the FTSE 100 index by raising its stock market value with a last-minute share conversion.

Coats Viyella more accurately reflected the general mood of the week. Its shares slumped 16 per cent after the company delayed the demerger of its clothing division and revealed a sharp fall in profits. BTR also typified the grim mood, warning the market that falling profits could force it to close more factories.

MATTHEW BARBOUR

Award Winner 1997 and 1998 – What Mortgage Magazine.

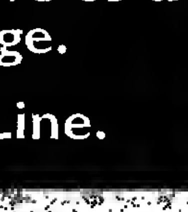
You don't have to move house to move to a better mortgage.

Just call Direct Line.

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
HALIFAX	9.7%	£653.59	[illegible]	[illegible]
WOOLWICH	9.5%	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ABBEY NATIONAL	9.5%	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
DIRECT LINE	8.6%	[illegible]		£187,902

Transfer your mortgage to Direct Line and you could save over £500 a year.

- No arrangement fee.
- No valuation fee.
- No mortgage indemnity fee.
- Daily interest calculation.
- Call Direct Line now.



DIRECT LINE MORTGAGES

0181 649 9099 LONDON
0161 831 9099 MANCHESTER
0141 221 9099 GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. NTT19
www.directline.co.uk/mortgages Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 250 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5SH.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT

Toshiba to cut forecast profit to nil

BY GEORGE SIVELL

TOSHIBA, the Japanese corporation, has cut its forecast of profits for the current year to zero from 65 billion yen (£294 million). Revenue is now seen at 5.5 trillion yen (£25 billion), down from a previous forecast of 5.55 trillion.

Taizo Nishimuro, the president of Toshiba, said that the company would spin off nine businesses from April next year and cut the workforce by March 2000 from 64,000 at present to 60,000.

Mr Nishimuro did not elaborate on which parts of the business would be sold off. Directors' salaries will be cut by up to 20 per cent starting next month.

Mr Nishimuro blamed the profits forecast on lower prices of microchips and peripherals for personal computers. He added that the prices of memory chips had fallen by more than the company had expected. Sram, flash memory and Asic prices also fell substantially.

Earlier this year Toshiba forecast that the price of 64M Dram chips would average $14 io the year to March. This compares with the current price of $9.

Schroders to make £35m of provisions

BY RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SCHRODERS, the merchant bank, said yesterday that it was making first-half provisions of £35 million against its exposure to South-East Asia. It gave warning of further charges at the end of the year if market condidons failed to improve.

The bank, which set aside £23.9 million for its Asian problems in the previous six months, said that just over half of the provisions related to £59.1 million in US-denominated bonds and loans to Indonesia, Korea and Thailand, the three IMF-assisted countries.

Win Bischoff, chairman, said: "While we have been able to reduce our Asian exposures somewhat since the end of 1997, the economic situation has deteriorated further. Additional provisions may be necessary." Schroders's gross exposure to Asia, excluding Japan, was £375 million at June 30.

The provision overshadowed the bank's strong revenue growth in the first six months, with underlying profits up 27 per cent to £166 million. This was largely down to a better-than-expected performance from the investment banking division, where pre-tax profits jumped 45 per cent to £85.3 million. Asset management rose 12 per cent to £81.1 million year on year, although profits were slightly down on the previous six months.

Total funds under management rose just 9 per cent to £116.7 billion. The underlying growth of the total portfolio was slightly over 6 per cent.

After provisions, pre-tax profits were £141 million, helped by a £10 million write-back. Excluding the write-back, there would have been virtually no rise in pre-tax profits after exceptionals.

The interim dividend, payable on October 29, will be 5p (4.7p). Earnings per share slipped to 34.1p (34.2p).

Tempus, page 53

In the picture: Terry Bate, right, chairman, and Chris Rowlands, chief executive, saw The Television Corporation, the television services and programme provider, achieve an 11 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £1.69 million. Earnings per share fell to 4.8p (5.6p), but the interim dividend increases 12 per cent to 1.4p.

Competition in electricity starts slowly

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

COMPETITION in household electricity will open with a whimper on Monday when less than 2 per cent of those able to switch supplier will do so.

About 10,000 households will move from their regional supplier to another company — out of 750,000 homes that have been selected for the first phase of competition. Yvonne Constance, chairman of the Electricity Consumers Committees, said the low number was down to a lack of competition in generation that meant suppliers were not able to cut prices enough to be attractive.

British Gas, the only outsider to enter the electricity market, said it has signed 440,000 customers nationwide and has had requests for information from 1.5 million. However, many of those who have signed to buy power from British Gas will have to wait months before they are switched because of the gradual phasing of the competition programme.

The market will be steadily deregulated by postcode areas until June when all homes will be able to shop around.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Caledonia mopsup Amber's shares

CALEDONIA INVESTMENTS is mopping up the maining shares of Amber Industries in a deal that values thpecialist chemicals company at £20.6 million. The venture catal firm, in which the Cayzer family holds a near 40 per centake, already controls 75 per cent of Amber's stock through subsidiary, Caledonia Industrial & Services (CISL).

The agreed 130p-a-share cash offer represents a pmium of 57.6 per cent to Thursday's closing price of 82.5p. CL said it saw no immediate prospect of the price recoverinp match the offer's terms. Amber, whose main UK subsidiariare Ambersil and Intachem, manufactures and distributesecialty chemicals. For the year to March, Amber reportec pre-tax profit of £1.64 million. CISL said it was buying the ares because its existing stake had led to liquidity problemsith few analysts bothering to cover the company. Caledonisid that Amber also needed additional resources to aid expsion.

John Mansfield in ed

JOHN MANSFIELD, the builders' merchant, suffed a pre-tax loss of £48,000 in the six months to June 30 on ses down from £6.4 million to £6 million. Earnings fell from 0.1 to losses of 0.02p a share. Again, there is no dividend. Thempany said the order book showed a much-improved posin compared with last year. The company said that with a w management team in place and restructuring emerging, was confident that the timber business would continue to irove.

Border beating buget

BORDER TELEVISION, the Cumbrian indepenit television company, is trading ahead of both budget ance previous year. James Graham, chairman, said the compy's market share of advertising revenue is consistently beag that of the previous year. During August Border recordeds highest ever market share. Mr Graham said current incators for September are excellent but beyond that he said hould not comment, especially given early signs of a possiblecession.

Bourne End wins lase

BOURNE END PROPERTIES has exchanged otracts to acquire the leasehold on a 120,000 sq ft shopping atre from MEPC for £13.1 million. The Clarendon Centren which Bourne End is acquiring a 193-year lease, is the deinant retail centre in Hyde, Manchester. It generates annunet rental income of £1.15 million, reflecting a net initial yld of 8.41 per cent. Bourne End has also obtained an option burchase the 85,000 sq ft Centrepoint Retail Park in Aberde.

Kvaerner in rail dal

KVAERNER, the Norwegian industrial group thaook over the Trafalgar House engineering and property conmerate, said it has signed a letter of intent with Union Raiays for a £140 million development of a ten-mile part of thChannel Tunnel rail link between Ashford and Lenham Heal Kvaerner will keep trains running on Ashford's existing ranetwork while building the new railway through the centre the town. The project is expected to be completed by summe002.

Dean Corp advanes

DEAN CORPORATION, the business supporservices group, raised pre-tax profits from £739,000 to £9540 in the six months to June 30 on sales up from £16.1 millito £18.8 million. The half-year dividend rises from 0.3p to 0p out of earnings down slightly from 1.13p to 1p. On curretrading, Stephen Dean, chairman, said: "I am confident thompany will continue to make good progress in the remaier of the year. The results for July are in line with expectatis."

Delancey spends £5m

DELANCEY ESTATES has exchanged contracts to acire The Darwin Centre, a freehold shopping centre in Shwsbury, from Burford Investment Company for £35 million. he deal will be funded from existing cash resources. The Darwi Centre has approximately 200,000 sq ft of retail trading on tle evels and is linked to a 950-space car park. The centre curntly produces a net annual rental income of £2.22 million. Rong five-year rent reviews begin to fall in from the middle of 19.

Merivale worth mcre

MERIVALE MOORE shares rose 6p to 69½p after theroperty company revealed a rise in net asset value from 86.3p t1162p a share. Grenville Dean, chairman, said the board belives that the trend for consolidation among property companiesil continue and that it is seeking suitable acquisitions. Pre-t profits rose from £858,000 to £3.6 million although the figurecludes £2 million of litigation damages it was awarded. Earngs rose from 3.6p to 18.9p, with the half-year dividend up to 2.5(225p).

Gardiner in bid taks

SHARES in Gardiner Group, the industrial distributn company, rose 7p to 21p when it revealed that it was in b talks. At this level the company is valued at £22.7 million. Iretors of Gardiner made the announcement after a suddenurge in the company's share price. Earlier this year the shres had traded at 28p but halved in the general market slic. In the year to October 30, 1997, the company made £3.7 mlion before tax on sales of £98.1 million.

Cookson buys Accd

COOKSON GROUP, the UK industrial materials anelectronic components company, has acquired Accel, of the Ufor $14.8 million (£8.9 million). Accelmakes speciality cleanin systems for the electronics industry. In the year to June 30 Acl earned operating profits of £1.6 million on sales of £3.6 millio Stephen Howard, Cookson chief execudve, said the deal enhaces Cookson's ability to provide integrated solutions to the xpanding market for advanced packaging of electronic compoents.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.89	2.72
Austria Sch	21.08	19.42
Belgium Fr	61.99	57.03
Canada $	2.670	2.482
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8870	0.8155
Denmark Kr	11.44	10.55
Egypt	5.93	5.32
Finland Mkk	9.24	8.49
France Fr	10.04	9.26
Germany Dm	3.016	2.774
Greece Dr	518	479
Hong Kong $	13.88	12.68
Iceland	129	109
Ireland Pt	1.1927	1.1037
Israel Shk	6.86	6.20
Italy Lira	2992	2755
Japan Yen	235.42	217.89
Malta	0.670	0.611
Netherlds Gld	3.408	3.113
New Zealand $	3.38	3.14
Norway Kr	13.33	12.39
Portugal Esc	305.00	282.97
S Africa Rd	11.20	10.24
Spain Pta	252.70	233.91
Sweden Kr	14.02	12.92
Switzerland Fr	2.497	2.279
Turkey Lira	475779	444155
USA $	1.792	1.649

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
AN END TO LIFFE AS WE KNOW IT?
'Liffe, Lncon's futures market, ace the threat of extinctons Germany muscles n a its territory. Bot Liffe is panning a grand new offenve to salvage its posiions one of the City's geatuccess stories. Can BrianWilliamson, Liffe's nw chairman, make l: plan fly?'
Businss Focus, tomrrow
THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNAY PAPERS

THE SUNDAY TIMES

SEE THE WORLD. THROUGH THE ROUND WINDOW.

With over 2,000 pages, 1,000 images and 60 multimedia files, the Window on the World CD-Rom is a must for anyone living on our planet. And it's free with tomorrow's Sunday Times Magazine. Don't miss it.

THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

هكذا من الأصل

Starr-struck markets

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

City screens strayed from their normal format yesterday as dealers hoped to read early editions of the Starr — so much more salacious than *The Sun*, according to the advance publicity. And there was legitimate justification for the interest in the special prosecutor's report. When he was cavorting in the Oval Office, Bill Clinton probably gave little heed to the implication his actions might have for world markets, but that was yet another of his oversights.

While there are other factors driving stock markets at this extraordinary time, the stability of the American Presidency is not without importance. Although Wall Street made a brave attempt at recovering some of the ground lost in its initial, drastic reaction to the first leaks from the Starr, it was not convincing.

If Clinton persists in refusing to resign, pushing the US through the miserable process of impeaching the President will only add to the misery of the markets.

He clearly has not been devoting his full attention to matters economic for some time. In theory, it would be far more significant for the financial markets if Ed Rubin, the Treasury Secretary, or Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve chairman, were to be sweet from office. But against a background of political and economic chaos elsewhere in the world, this is the time when it is important for the US to appear to have strong leadership.

Yesterday brought fresh evidence of just how dreadful the situation in Japan has become, with production figures that amount to deep recession. Far from being the financial miracle it had so recently been judged, Japan now looks more like the Polly Peck economy. The Japanese Government must be bullied into taking strong medicine to begin to put right its own problems and curtail those it could inflict on the rest of the world. The leader of the Western world is not, right now, well positioned to tell them so.

However, help is at hand. On Tuesday Chancellor Gordon Brown will fly East to do his best to try to put the Japanese right. The likelihood is that he will not be recommending them to follow his example and set up a monetary policy committee. But he must be beginning to wonder whether handing over power over interest rates to such an independent body is the ideal route.

Sadly, being in Japan will mean that the Chancellor cannot join the brothers as they gather for the Trades Union Congress in Blackpool. He will miss hearing their cries for lower interest rates as a response to the worsening conditions they are now experiencing in British industry. He will not have to explain why it was that the MPC chose not to cut interest rates.

But what happens if Alan Greenspan decides that the only way to avoid outright world recession is for the West to move together and cut rates. Does his call to Mr Brown simply get referred to the Bank of England?

Fruits of Bilton will be hard won

Percy Bilton brought an eccentric style to the eponymous property company he founded. Guests invited to lunch with the dapper, bespectacled gentleman would be a little taken aback to find that, while they were served a conventional three-course meal, Bilton himself would munch his way through a huge plate of grapes. They were imported from his own estate in South Africa and he believed they would improve his longevity. So they did: he was still at the helm well into his eighties.

He is now long gone, but the eccentric style has survived at the company. Current chief executive Ronald Groom's inclinations are more towards hunting, shooting and fishing than vineyards, so what investors might perceive as a commercial property company has investments in salmon fishing and grouse shoots.

Percy's children have, in the past, been remarkably tolerant of such indulgences, considering the poor performance of the company. As Sir Nigel Mobbs, Slough Estates chairman, put it yesterday when he launched his £264 million takeover bid for the business, Bilton has some well-located properties but they have perhaps suffered in recent years from "under management".

Well, all that shooting and fishing takes time. Not so long ago Ron Groom thought he might spend even less time in the office and, in 1992, he retired as chief executive with a £1.1 million payoff. Three years later he was back in fully salaried employ as managing director.

Sir Nigel reckons Slough Estates could make a much better job of running Bilton, and his offer would give the Bilton progeny a chance to realise some capital from their inheritance.

However, the complicated structure of the trust which holds their shares will not be easy to penetrate and Groom may be understandably loath to ease Sir Nigel's path. Relations between him and the Bilton children have not been built on the strongest foundations, since he was moved into the top job to take over after a brief and unhappy attempt by Percy's son, Donald, to run the business.

Sir Nigel is diving into a delicate situation with his takeover bid, but he is right to have spotted the potential in the company. Some of the Bilton sites in the South East could be profitably redeveloped. Slough has the expertise to do that but it may have to fight for the privilege.

Sir Nigel could do worse than stock up on some grapes. He could be in for a protracted fight.

Power switches to the people

A new era is about to dawn in power supply. You haven't noticed? Don't worry, you are not alone.

From Monday, 750,000 homes in selected areas will be able to shop around for electricity. These people are in the vanguard of a mammoth programme to introduce competition to all 26 million domestic electricity consumers by next June, but don't seem to care very much.

A mere 10,000 of those homes will be switching supplier on day one — just 1.3 per cent of those eligible. True, more will come on stream later on in the process and, after such a poor start, things can only get bener. But industry estimates suggest that when the market is fully open, only 10 per cent will transfer.

Competition enthusiasts will blame the industry for doom-mongering because it did not want to relinquish its cosy regional monopolies. However, the behaviour of gas customers would suggest otherwise. British Gas still has more than 80 per cent of the national market in spite of facing rivals throughout the country in a competition programme that began two years ago. And with gas the price cuts on offer far exceed those available in electricity.

Marketing enthusiasts will say that people will be wooed into switching because of service quality and additional services. But power is the ultimate commodity and its appeal is severely limited. At the end of the day the lights either come on or they don't.

Short hop to . . .

SHORT-HOP experts, British Regional Airlines, looked to be given a fair wind when Sir Michael Bishop launched it on to the stock market this year. But yesterday it made an emergency landing, reducing the fortune of the British Midland and Channel 4 boss by £9 million. Heaven knows, small airlines are risky investment, ask any former shareholder in the late Davies & Newman (DanAir's parent). Maybe Richard Branson would be wise to indefinitely postpone plans to ever float Virgin Atlantic.

British Regional shares dive as loss recorded

By Martin Barrow

SHARES of British Regional Air Lines Group nosedived yesterday after the company revealed that it had tumbled into the red in the first half and gave warning of difficult trading conditions in the second half.

The shares more than halved to 52½p from 108½p, and now trade at just 30 per cent of the peak of 163½p struck soon after the airline was floated on the stock market just three months ago.

The airline was demerged from British Midland last year and yesterday's warning is an embarrassment for Sir Michael Bishop, who is chairman of both companies, and for Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank that advised on the flotation.

Shareholders have seen more than £73 million wiped from the company's stock market value.

British Regional operates services on 86 routes, most of them under franchise for British Airways, and takes in Manx, the Isle of Man carrier.

In the six months to June 30 the company incurred a £487,000 loss which, it said, was better than expected at the time of the flotation and was attributable to start-up costs.

However, Sir Michael warned investors that, although passenger numbers were broadly in line with budget, overall yields were lower than anticipated, a pattern that was likely to continue throughout the rest of the year.

In the first half British Regional carried 1.12 million passengers, an increase of 11.3 per cent over the first half of the previous year, but average occupancy fell to 60.6 per cent from 62.8 per cent. Revenues increased 21 per cent but aircraft standing costs and overheads rose by 23 per cent and 26 per cent respectively.

Sir Michael said the decline in the load factor was in line with expectations.

The loss per share was 1p (1p profit). There is no interim dividend.

Sir Michael Bishop said that yields were lower than anticipated

Servisair slips after warning to market

SHARES of Servisair, the airport services company, fell to an all-time low yesterday after it gave warning that 1998 pretax profits would fall short of those earned in 1997 (Martin Barrow writes).

The company blamed the loss of an American Airlines contract and a fall in margins at Stansted airport. In addition, the company incurred losses in Sweden and has decided to cut short a service contract with Braathens, the Scandinavian airline.

Servisair shares, listed since 1995, fell 47p to 117p on the news that the company would fail to match last year's pre-tax profits of £6.97 million.

The company is holding the interim dividend at 1.75p a share. This is despite a rise in first-half profits to £957,000 from £102,000. The company ended the half year with net cash of £7.2 million.

John Willis, chairman, said: "We had a good start to the year, though the first half is not indicative of the full year."

Tempus, page 53

Parallel in talks with Handmade

PARALLEL PICTURES, the independent British film and television production business, is in talks to buy the film company behind *Time Bandits*, *Life of Brian* and *A Private Function* (Martin Barrow writes).

Parallel, whose shares trade on the Alternative Investment Market, hopes to acquire Handmade Films, which was established in 1978 by George Harrison.

Mr Harrison sold Handmade in 1994 to Paragon Entertainment, which recently went into receivership. The company up for sale comprises a film production and sales business, together with a library of 22 films.

Parallel is only five years old and has several projects in the pipeline, including *Poor Things*, which stars Helena Bonham-Carter and Robert Carlyle.

Reed sees shift to full-time employment

By Chris Ayres

REED EXECUTIVE, the recruitment consultancy which has won three of the Government's New Deal contracts to help the young unemployed to find work, yesterday reported a 10 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the six months to June 28 from £6.7 million to £7.3 million.

Although Reed's sales growth slowed, rising 9 per cent from £107 million to £117 million, the company said it "masked a shift towards permanent recruitment" which gave better margins. Shares in the company rose 2p to 113½p, compared with a high earlier this year of 191p.

Reed said investment in its computer system, which has so far totalled £5 million, would slow down in the second half. The company also said that it had undertaken "substantially more" resourcing projects with several large clients.

Alec Reed, Reed's chairman, said the company had also signed a joint venture agreement with Oxford Psychologists Press, which produces psychometric tests. As part of the deal, Robert McHenry, OPP's founder and chairman, will become a non-executive director of Reed on October 1.

Mr Reed also said the company was considering the establishment of an employee benefit trust which would "remunerate co-members for outstanding performance". The company's earnings per share rose from 8.5p to 10.1p, and an interim dividend of 1.8p (1.5p) will be paid on October 16.

Tempus, page 53

OM offer sees Sharp windfall

PARTNERS, management and staff of Albert E Sharp, the private client stockbroker, are to share £60 million in cash after agreeing to sell to Old Mutual, the South African insurer (Richard Miles writes).

The bulk of the £40.75 million purchase price will go to the 15 founding partners who control 58 per cent of the stock. They also stand to receive two or three further tranches valued at up to £6 million.

Old Mutual intends to merge Albert E Sharp with Capel Cure Myers, the stockbroker that it bought in December. However, the corporate advisory arm will continue to trade as Albert E Sharp Securities.

The combined group will have £9.8 billion of discretionary and advisory funds under management.

Southampton plans hit by rivalry

By Jason Nissé

SOUTHAMPTON Leisure, owner of the football team rooted to the bottom of the Premier League with no points, said yesterday that it had no media companies knocking on its door and its plans to move to a £50 million new stadium were looking "sickly".

Rupert Lowe, the group's chairman, said that the project to develop a sports and retail development at Stoneham on the outskirts of Southampton had been hit by rivalry between three local authorities. Although Labour-controlled Southampton City Council is backing the plan, Liberal-controlled Eastleigh is opposed and Conservative-led Hampshire County Council is sitting on the fence.

Mr Lowe said the project was "not dead yet but an extremely sickly patient". The company has written off the £697,000 it has spent on Stoneham so far and is looking at an alternative deal to build a £30 million 32,000-seat stadium at St Mary's in the centre of Southampton.

The team sold Kevin Davies, its young striker, for £7.25 million in the close season, but this came too late to have any impact on the results for the year to May 31. These showed a loss of £803,000, £107,000 less than the loss last year, on turnover more than doubled to £14.7 million. The loss per share fell from 5.8p to 2.97p and there is a 1p dividend.

Southampton shares, which were 44p earlier this week, rose 6p to 57p yesterday.

Tempus, page 53

Blair TV

AND they call the BBC the Blair Broadcasting Corporation. Mypies at Cowcaddens, headquarters of Scottish TV, tell me that Gordon Brown's brother, John, is about to be appointed to a very senior job there. The only sticking point is money.

John is head spin doctor for Glasgow Council and is reckoned to take home about £60,000. His new employer believes this to be a healthy whack in those parts. STV is, of course, owned by Scottish Media Group, which recently provided Labour with a new Scottish Industry Minister, its former chairman Gus Macdonald.

He is expected to get the job of news editor and current affairs editor. Reporting to him is a chief news producer, Paul McKinney, who started life as a researcher for Gordon Brown and for Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary.

Should either man need to contact the Scottish Labour Party, they can ring its mouthpiece, Lorraine Davidson, who was STV Westminster correspondent. As was David Whitten, now Dewar's own PR man.

And they still can't get ahead of the Scots Nats

THE gyrations of the Schroders share price yesterday will have been watched with particular interest by one secretary at the bank. The lady has been identified to me only by her first name, Doris, and she has been there for a quarter of a century.

For the past 20 years, or ever since she has been eligible, she has been buying shares under the employee share ownership plan, and the huge growth in the Schroders share price means she is now a very rich lady indeed — and need not work, except that she enjoys the job so. She takes the staff out to an annual lunch in Chinatown. But highly paid investment bankers have to pay their own way, I am told.

Game's up

AMONG the media moguls lining up to buy top football teams is Barry Ruberry, a founder of Pace Microtechnology, who left the satellite receiver company last year with £50 million from its flotation. A couple of years ago Ruberry wanted to buy Leeds United, but I hear his ambitions are now more modest and he is after Huddersfield Town.

In the 1930s Huddersfield Town was the Manchester United of English football. Now in the lower reaches of the first division, it is best known for its impressive McAlpine Stadium. The joke in West Yorkshire is that Huddersfield gets bigger crowds from design schools than it does on a Saturday.

Wine wars

THE latest fashion among mega-rich French businessmen is buying up famous vineyards. Claude Bebear at Axa has a couple, François Pinault has Château Latour and Albert Frère, of Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux, has just snaffled Château Cheval Blanc.

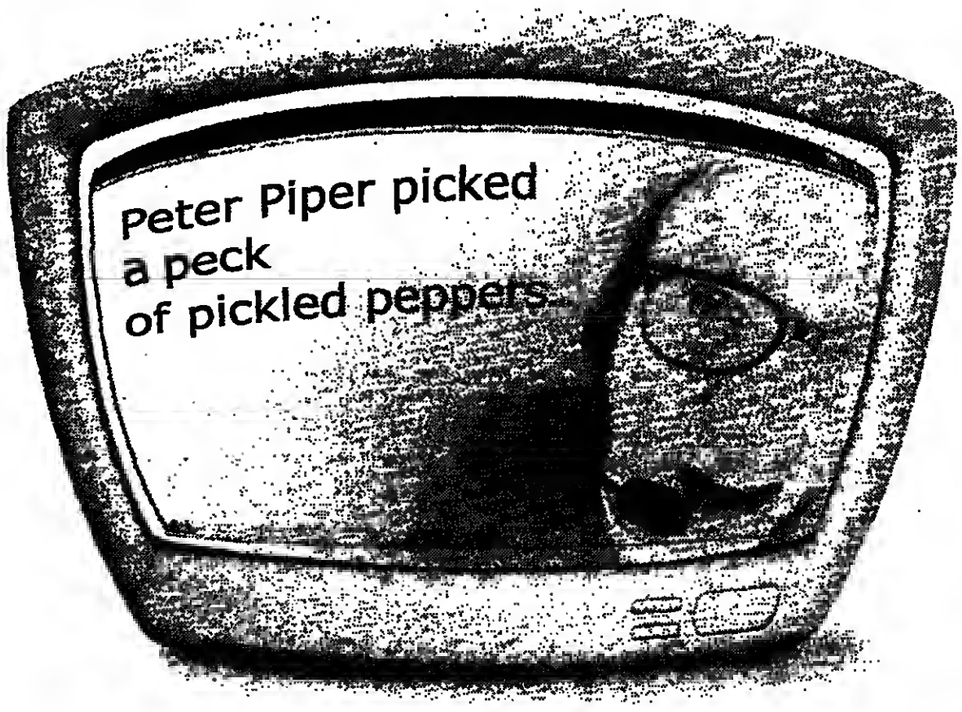
Now Bernard Arnault and LVMH have gained control of one of the best yet, the Sauternes Château d'Yquem, described as "sex in a glass". A tortuous legal dispute with the head of the family that owned it has just been settled in Arnault's favour, after a family feud which saw various relations siding with him.

Arnault has 55 per cent, having paid $100 million. His opponent, Count Alexandre de Lur Saluces, is writing poetry denigrating the new owner and planning an appeal; locals mutter that all these business big-wigs are acting in cahoots.

And it is all the fault of Napoleon. His code required land to be split between siblings on the owner's death and made dissipation of family shareholdings in vineyards inevitable, so letting in the tycoons.

Martin Waller

IBM



If you can say it, ViaVoice 98 can type it.

You talk. It types. Introducing ViaVoice 9B Executive and ViaVoice 9B Home – the latest members of IBM's award-winning speech recognition software. A software so advanced that all your letters, e-mail and brilliant thoughts can be captured simply by talking to your computer naturally – it will even read them back to you! With ViaVoice 98 Executive you can use Natural Language commands to format and edit your Microsoft Word documents and you can also drive your other applications simply by using your voice. ViaVoice 98 gives you the power to be productive... and have fun! Visit your local PC retailer or our Web site at www.ibm.com/viavoice for a list of our specialist resellers.

PC WORLD 0990 464464
Dixons 0990 500049
Currys 0990 500049

From just £49.99 (including free ultralight high-quality headset microphone)

Minimum requirements for ViaVoice 98 include Pentium 166MHz with MMX and 256K L2 cache, 32MB RAM for Windows 95/98 (48MB RAM for Microsoft Word 97) or 48MB RAM for Windows NT 4.0 (64MB RAM for MS Word 97), 200MB of available hard disk space, a high quality sound card, and a double speed CD-ROM drive. IBM, ViaVoice and the e-business logo are trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation. ©1998 IBM Corporation.

e-business tools

The cat's whiskers: Sprite | ... from our principles

Alasdair Murray says the going is still tough but there are signs of a pick-up

Hong Kong keeps its economic nerve

The September start to the horse-racing season is normally a time for celebration in gambling-mad Hong Kong. The city's two race courses, at Happy Valley and Shatin, are packed as the punters rush to place their bets after the short summer break.

This year, however, the Hong Kong Jockey Club is understandably worried that, in the midst of the city's worst recession for nearly 20 years, the locals will have lost their appetite for betting. Analysts are predicting that turnover could fall by 10 per cent, hitting not just the racing industry but the city's tax base. Betting receipts are the largest single contributor to the city's coffers, providing a tenth of all taxes.

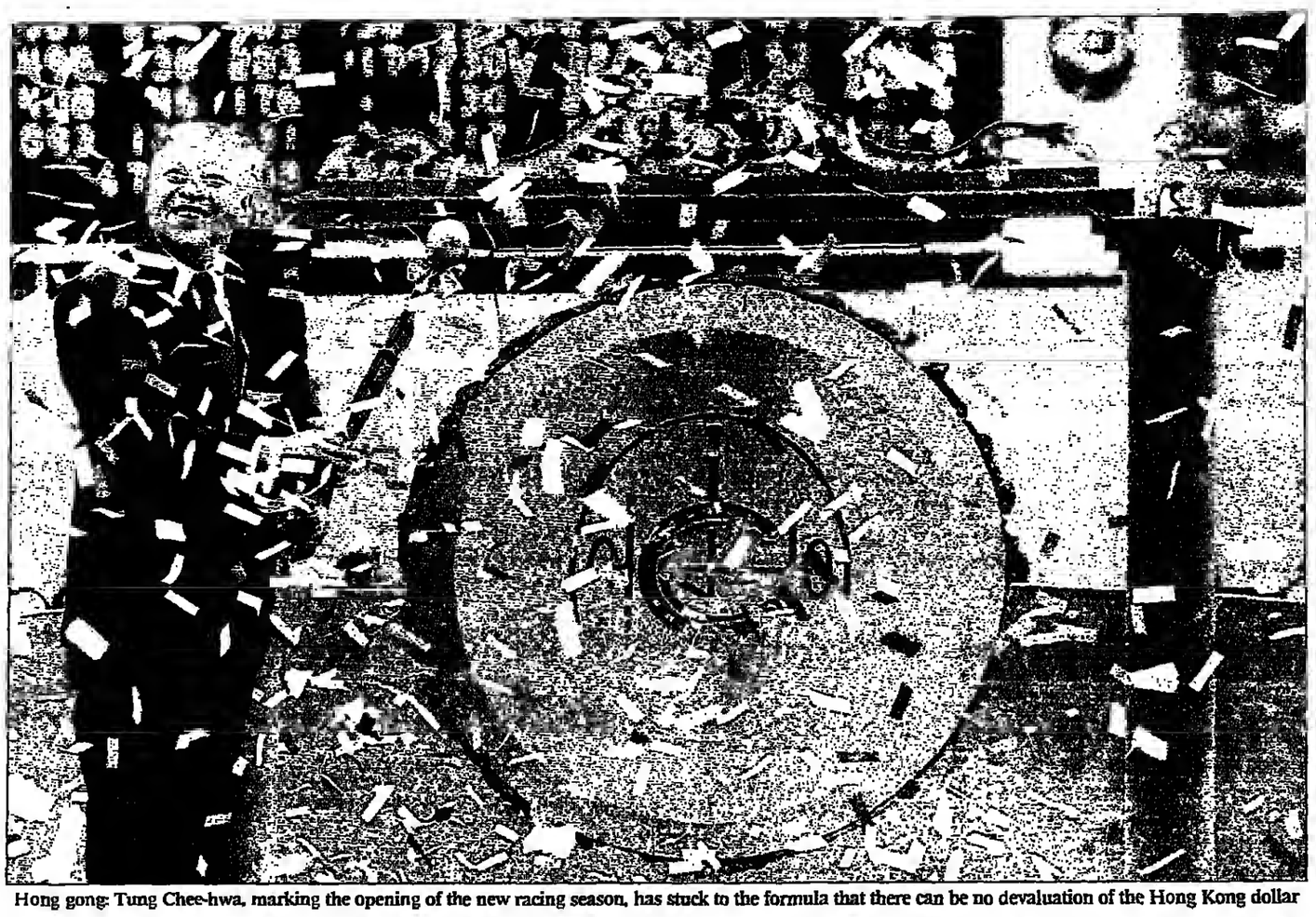
The Jockey Club was taking no chances. It hired top Cantonese pop star, Andy Lau, to perform the nostalgic sounding hit *The Good Days*. The club even made offerings of roasted pigs to the God of Wealth at the two courses in an effort to ensure the season got off to an auspicious beginning.

For the moment at least, the pigs do not appear to have died in vain. Punters spent some £72 million at the first meet — only marginally down from last year — while attendance was considerably higher despite the pouring rain. The gamblers' general attitude was that, when times are hard, a win on the horses can help to relieve the pain. Gambling, with its winners and losers, merely resembles the natural ups and downs of life, claimed more than one stoical punter.

Bad news has become a daily event in Hong Kong. The *South China Morning Post*, the respected English language daily, now provides a regular full-page round-up of the latest fallout from the crisis. Charities and helplines have been inundated by callers desperate for advice on how to cope with unemployment, negative equity or stock market losses.

Official statistics show the economy contracted by 5 per cent in the second quarter of the year. The Hong Kong Government is predicting a fall of 4 per cent across the full year but most economists believe this an underestimate. Unemployment has reached a 15-year high of 4.8 per cent and is expected to continue to rise towards a record 5.5 per cent by the year end. Unions say that most employees are accepting wage cuts of up to a third of their salaries, rather than risk becoming unemployed.

The city's problems are most apparent in Hong Kong's plush malls and crowded shopping streets. Many outlets appear to be holding perpetual sales with discounts reaching 70 per cent as retailers try to shift unwanted stock. Even in Pacific Place, the upmarket mall in Central Hong Kong frequented by rich Hong Kongers and wealthy overseas tourists, the signs of economic distress are widespread. While the branded designer shops — which are trying to push their new season ranges at full prices — lie empty, their mid-market neighbours are already offering healthy discounts on fresh autumn stock.



Hong gong: Tung Chee-hwa, marking the opening of the new racing season, has stuck to the formula that there can be no devaluation of the Hong Kong dollar

Latest statistics showed retail sales fell 16 per cent in June, an economic disaster in a city where consumer spending is 60 per cent of GDP. The major department stores have been even harder hit, unable to withstand the competition from smaller outlets more accustomed to working in a cut-throat market. Department store sales have dropped by 29 per cent with Japanese chains especially hard hit by the large decline in the number of Asian tourists visiting the city. Matsuzakaya became the latest Japanese firm to quit Hong Kong at the end of August after 23 years.

The city's other economic mainstay, property, has also been devastated. Property prices as a whole have dropped by more than 40 per cent in less than a year, while prices in the luxury residential end of the market have declined by as much as 60 per cent. Despite the premium on space in the Hong Kong territories, vacancy signs are springing up. Property analysts believe it could take up to four years for the market to fully recover.

For much of the last year, the Hong Kong Government has resembled a rabbit caught in the headlights of a juggernaut — aware of the impending danger but apparently powerless to react. Tung Chee-hwa, Hong Kong Chief Executive, and Donald Tsang, the Financial Secretary, have stuck to the formula that there can be no devaluation of the Hong Kong dollar. The markets, however, have grown ever more sceptical as other currencies in the region have crumbled and even the once-mighty yen has dived. For most international traders it has become a question of not if the Hong Kong peg to the US dollar is removed but when.

For the bears, there has been an added incentive to attack the currency peg — even if it holds in the near term. A relatively modest HK$500 million attack on the currency dries up liquidity and automatically sends short-term interest rates soaring. The hike in interest rates hits banks and property companies, the main elements of the stock exchange, and sends the Hang Seng tumbling. The short sellers are in effect creating a vicious circle where each attack inflicts sufficient pain to make the next assault even more likely to succeed.

Belatedly, the Hong Kong Government has started to fight back. It began to intervene in the market in the summer, mopping up some US$15 billion of stock and in the process becoming the largest shareholder in the dual-listed HSBC. The intervention has been attacked for breaking free-market rules but was effective in the short term in propping up the stock market.

More decisively, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority moved last week to increase the amount of liquidity in the monetary system, making a speculative attack much more difficult. Interest rates have become less volatile, raising the prospect that the risk premium placed on the overseas borrowing of the city's banks could soon decline. The Hang Seng has enjoyed one of its best weeks in months, surging more than 8 per cent before profit-taking and the Clinton factor took its toll.

It is far too early to talk about an end to the crisis, but there are tentative signs that Hong Kong could be "turning the corner". The number of tourists has begun to rise again. Sung Hai Kai, the upmarket property group, reported last week that sentiment in the market is beginning to improve and prices have stabilised. Vigers, the property consultant, said there were signs that the mass residential market is also picking up because prices have become "attractive".

There is even a glimmer of light in the retail sector as shops adjust to the new conditions. Dickson Poon, the retailing tycoon with a controlling stake in Harvey Nichols, revealed this week that his Hong Kong operation, Dickson Concepts, is planning to introduce stores selling off-season merchandise and name-brand items at bargain prices. The company is also looking for new prime sites for Filo/Ralph Lauren and Brooks Brothers stores. Mr Poon explained the logic of moving now, despite the difficult economic conditions. "With rental and operating overheads being reduced on a long-term basis, this expansion would also serve to pave the way for additional profits growth," he said.

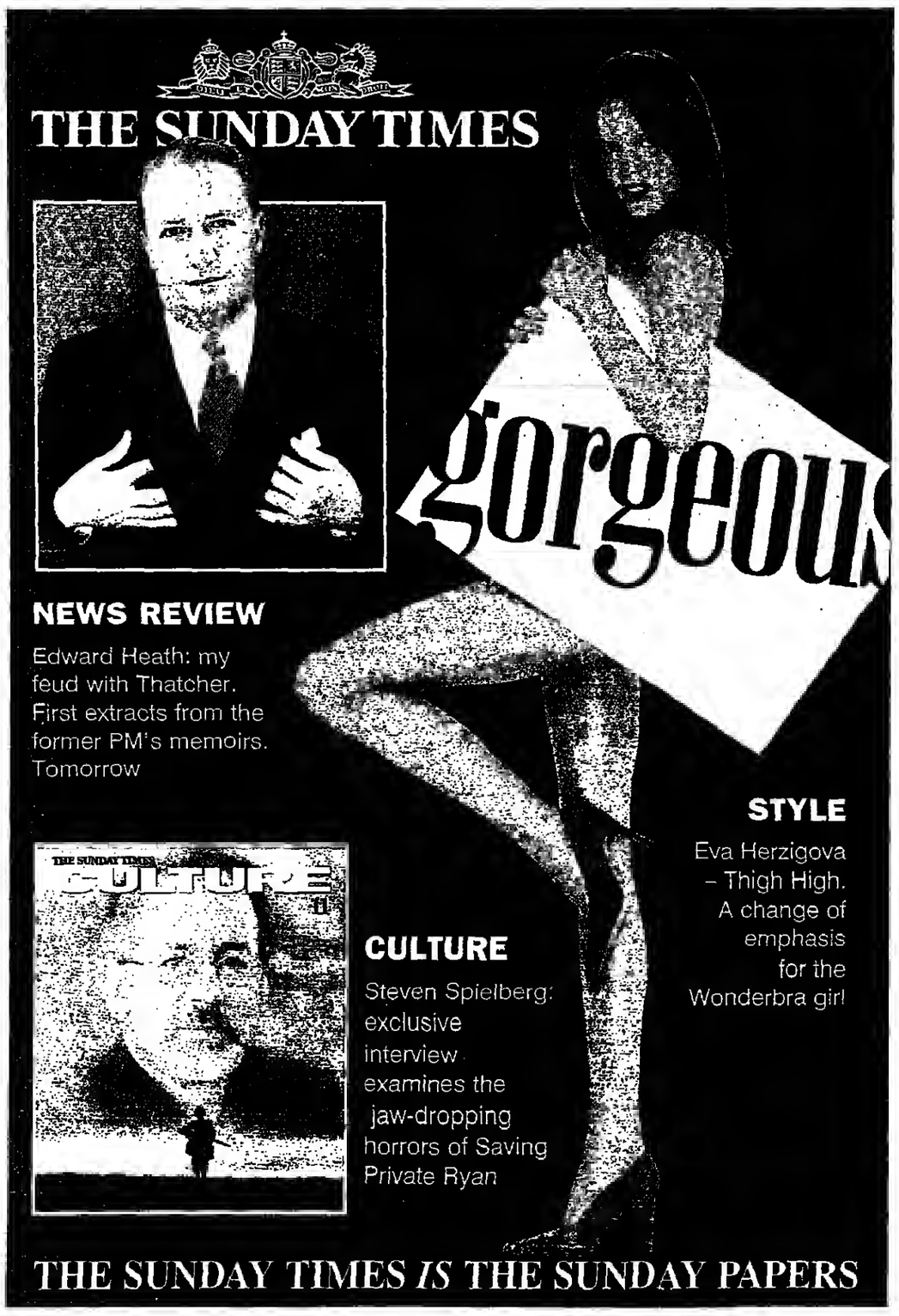
The message from these companies is that, beneath the financial market turmoil, there remains a resilient economy that is capable of weathering the storm — unlike the corporate sectors of many of its near neighbours. The banking sector has suffered from the punitive level of rates but is not in imminent danger of collapse. Despite the property slump, the "delinquency" rate on residential mortgages remains barely a third of a per cent.

Nor have exports collapsed — despite the devaluations in neighbouring currencies. About 70 per cent of exports go to the US, EU and China, and there has been little evidence that this has declined. Exports to the rest of Asia have fallen but how much this has to do with the exchange rate and how much with the general decline in regional demand is not clear.

Kwok Chueng Kwok, chief economist at Standard Chartered, believes that devaluation is not only unnecessary but could prove positively harmful by forcing another round of currency depreciations across Asia. Hong Kong no longer is a "sweatshop" economy, based on cheap labour and a weak exchange rate but is driven by a high-value added service sector that still yields one of the highest profit per worker rates in the region. The city has inevitably been hurt by the regional crisis, and its own property bubble, but it is displaying a remarkable capacity for adjustment as prices and labour costs rapidly shift to take account of the new economic reality. It also has the firm political and financial support of China.

"Residential prices have fallen by about 50 per cent in the past year and the labour market has adjusted rapidly. If that is not flexibility, then I don't know what is," Mr Kwok says, pointing to the fact that it took Japan seven years to achieve the same kind of changes. His attitude resembles that of the stoical punters at the Hong Kong races. The city will have to ride out the painful adjustment process — but the recession will weed out those companies that have grown too fat and lazy during the long years of expansion, leaving Hong Kong leaner and fitter in future.

On Wednesday: Can China remain aloof from the crisis?



Making of the ultimate mover and shaker

Victor Rice has been in a very hot seat for quite some time. Now he is packing it up and shipping it across to the US — again.

The merger of Lucas and Varity was sealed exactly two years ago, sending Mr Rice back to England after more than a decade in North America. The Anglo-American car components maker chose head offices in London and seemed to revive the British automotive sector at a time when historic car brands such as Rover and Rolls-Royce passed into foreign hands.

But the results of the merger have not satisfied the City. This week Mr Rice shocked investors and employees alike with an announcement that he is seeking a New York Stock Exchange listing followed by a switch of head offices to New York.

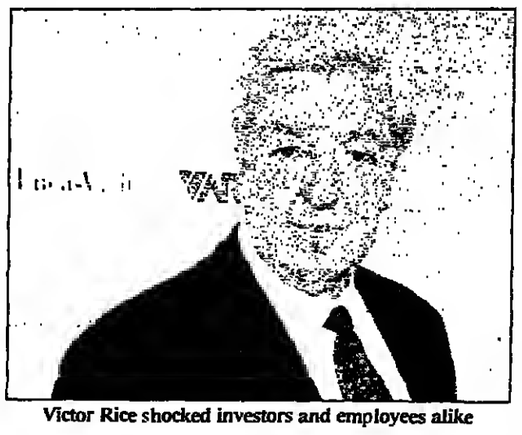
Anyone who has watched the transatlantic career of the abrasive chief executive with a British and Canadian passport and an American green card can't have been surprised by the move. Clues litter his past.

The son of a chimney sweep from Essex left school at 16 and joined the Ford Motor Company to work in the mailroom. Today he paints a picture of his youth that suggests a lack of ambition. Class boundaries were still strong in postwar Britain and the young mailroom clerk had no greater wish than to become a purchasing clerk.

But his work for Ford fostered an interest in North America, the home of the car industry. Leaving Ford after seven years to work for Cummins and later Perkins, he reached the position of comptroller.

His awaking ambition eventually propelled him across the Atlantic in his thirties. Massey-Ferguson, the tractor manufacturer, called him to Canada.

Mr Rice's stint as chief executive of Massey-Ferguson is a controversial subject among his supporters and detractors. Peter Drucker, the management guru, praised his mettle in rescuing a failing company.



Victor Rice shocked investors and employees alike

He said: "He showed incredible vision and persistence to turn it around. Massey became a very different, very successful company. His greatest strengths were his ability to build a team and to listen and think things through before moving quickly."

Some 58,000 Canadian workers have a different view. They paid with their jobs for the reduction of the $2 billion debt mountain. Of 68,000 employees only 10,000 were left.

IN THE HOT SEAT

In his efforts to reshape the farm equipment maker Mr Rice sought the help of the Canadian State. He received an estimated $200 million in loan guarantees and tax breaks.

But this did not prevent him from turning his back on Canada soon afterwards. After a dispute, he moved the company's head offices from Toronto to Buffalo in New York State. Aggrieved LucasVarity investors and employees will note the similarities.

Canadians became even more — and uncharacteristically — incensed when Massey-Ferguson's name was changed to Varity Corporation. Massey was a national treasure. According to the company annals, Napoleon III ordered Massey tractors for his estate at the Paris Exposition in 1867.

Mr Rice has repeatedly and strenuously denied speculation about the origin of the new name. But it is hard not to notice that his initials are V. A. R. He also denies that he walked out on the Canadians, saying it was the only way to save the company.

The brash attitude of American management was clearly an inspiration to Mr Rice. He is quoted as saying: "Unless you deliver, you will get punished."

CV: VICTOR RICE

Born: Hertfordshire 3 July 1941

Career: joined Ford in 1957, Cummins in 1964, Chrysler in 1968, Perkins in 1970, Massey-Ferguson in 1975. Executive chairman of Varity 1980-96. Chief executive of LucasVarity since 1996.

A similar attitude was evident after the LucasVarity merger in September 1996. Lucas was the bigger of the two companies and its shareholders ended up with two thirds of the new shares. But the balance of power in the executive suite at the London headquarters in Park Street was the reverse.

Mr Rice essentially took over the management of the company with the help of two key executives, Tony Gilroy, the chief operating officer, and Neil Arnold, the finance director. Both are Britons who had worked for Varity and both stayed at their old head offices in Buffalo. This provided another clue to the future of the merged group.

Of the Lucas directors on the joint board, none is left today. They followed out of the door the 8,000 employees that were sacked in a cost-cutting measure last Christmas.

After parting company with executives and workers, Mr Rice set out to reward US investors at the expense of LucasVarity's UK investors. He shifted from paying out healthy dividends to buying back shares, a strategy favoured in the US, leaving some investors to pronounce the merger a reverse takeover. They feel cheated out of an acquisition premium.

The shareholder base is now moving towards American dominance, a convenient fact for a company moving to the States and listing in New York.

If old Lucas employees needed any more clues as to the future of the London head office, they would have done well to look at Mr Rice's monthly schedule. On average, he is said to spend two weeks in America, one week in Britain and another week on global sales trips.

Less than a year ago, he told the local paper in Buffalo: "I just bought my third house in the area. I have one in Buffalo, one in Niagara-on-the-Lake and now one on Lake Erie 15 minutes from Buffalo. That's commitment."

OLIVER AUGUST

هكذا من الأصل

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer of the Year

FTSE fights way back from below 5,000 level

THE London stock market clawed its way back from the brink after briefly dropping below the important 5,000 level.

Down almost 150 points at one stage, the FTSE 100 index drew support from buyers in a falling market and encouragement from an opening rally on Wall Street. In the event, it reduced the deficit on the day to just 18.0 at 5,118.6, a loss on the week of 48.4 points. The index now stands 16.0 points below the level at which it started 1998 which may account for James Capel's decision to reduce its year-end forecast from 6,200 to 5,400.

Yesterday's early markdown was prompted by further overnight losses on Wall Street and in the Far East. Dealers say the problems of the emerging markets such as Russia, Latin America and Asia have created classic bear market conditions. There was certainly evidence of bargain-hunters picking up stock as the market went into freefall. Conversely, they become sellers on the first sign of a rally.

A total of 932 million shares had changed hands by the close of business last night, but brokers are warning of further volatility.

The water companies were bought for their defensive qualities with Credit Lyonnais, the broker, happy to push them to clients. It likes **Pennon Group**, up 6p at £10.19½, and **United Utilities**, down 4p at 864p. There were gains for **Anglian**, 12½p to 913p, **Hyder**, 11p to 997p, **Thames**, 13p to £11.13 and **Yorkshire**, 17½p to 507½p.

BTR rebounded 14¼p to 122p with the support of heavy share-buying by directors. Bob Bauman, chairman, has picked up 265,000 shares at 112p, while Ian Strachan, chief executive, bought 100,000 at the same price. Kathy O'Donovan, director, bought 50,000 shares with two other directors purchasing 30,000 shares between them.

Fallout from the Asian economic crisis continued to be felt with **Schroders**, the merchant bank, dropping 41p to 999p after being forced to write off £35 million.

Overnight losses in the Far East left **HSBC** 33p lower at £11.47 and **Standard Chartered** 12p at 430p, while fears of Latin American write-offs dented **Lloyds TSB** 33p to 652p and **Barclays** 57p to £11.17.

Larry Pollard, left, and Simon Gifford saw Tate & Lyle drop

Tate & Lyle, whose chief executive is Larry Pollard and finance director Simon Gifford, retreated 7p to 400p amid fears of a bear raid on the shares. One investor who specialises in selling shares short is said to have targeted the sugar producer.

Allied Zurich was at last able to apply the brake and halt this week's slide in the shares after completion of the demerger from **BAT Industries**. The price rallied 8½p to 655p, but is still down 160½p on the week. By contrast, BAT put on 2½p at 454p.

Also in the tobacco sector **Imperial Group** climbed 17p to 535p after James Capel, the broker, raised its recommendation for the shares from "hold" to "buy". It is impressed with the group's strong cashflow and yield.

The elevation of Sema Group to the top 100 companies has not impressed everyone. Credit Suisse First Boston, the broker, is not a fan of the information and technology supplier and has reiterated its "sell" recommendation for the shares, down 65p at 515p, claiming they are overvalued.

United Biscuits continued to build on the support offered by the market after a reasonably solid interim set of results earlier in the week. The price firmed 4p to 207p as Merrill Lynch, the broker, raised its recommendation for the shares from "reduce" to "hold". Even so, Merrill has trimmed its profits forecast for the current year by almost 4 per cent to £88 million.

The property sector got off to a flying start with news of the agreed bid by Slough Estates, 2½p easier at 302p, for **Bilton**, up 81p at 293½p. The terms are worth 300p a share, valuing the entire group at £264 million.

The move raised hopes that the Bilton acquisition is the first in a series of takeovers in the property sector. **British Land** advanced 11p to 570p, **Capital Shopping** 22½p to 380p, **Derwent Valley** 9½p to 416p, **Hammerson** 6½p to 404p, and **Helical Bar** 10p to 542½p.

TLG Group edged ahead 5½p to 183p as Cooper Industries of the US pondered the possibility of raising its terms. On Thursday, Wassall raised the temperature by launching a counter-bid worth 175p, valuing TLG at £351 million — £30 million above Cooper's original offer.

Gardiner Group rose 7p, or 46 per cent, to 21p after announcing it was in bid talks. At these levels, the group carries a price tag of £22.5 million.

Amber Industrial stood out with a rise of 45½p, or 55 per cent, to 128p after news of a minority bid from Caledonia Investments. Caledonia, which already owns 75 per cent of the shares, is offering 130p a share, valuing the entire company at £20.6 million.

A prolonged bout of turbulence left **Servisair** nursing a loss of 47p at 117p. The loss of a big contract with American Airlines, losses in Sweden and a contraction of margins at Stansted airport will take a toll of profits in the second half, warns the group.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Bond prices saw an early mark-up but failed to maintain their momementum in the wake of the strong gains already enjoyed this week. In the event, prices closed with small losses on the day.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt closed £0.23 down at £113.73 as a total of 73,000 contracts were completed. The five-year future finished £0.08 down at £106.42 in thin trading.

Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 slipped £7/32 to £139 1/32, while at the shorter end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 eased £1/16 to £104 5/8.

□ **NEW YORK:** The wait for the Starr report added to volatility in morning trade but shares remained firmer. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 37.07 at 7,652.61.

Hard-pressed market-makers were feeling the squeeze as Pearson, owner of the *Financial Times* and Penguin publishing, saw another burst of institutional support to close up 60p at £10.50. Traders say much of the rise was because of a large buyer catching the market short of stock.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
BTR	122p	—11¼p	Results disappoint
Marks & Spencer	471p	—57p	Brokers downgrade
Southern Electric	613p	+53p	Joins FTSE 100 index
Barclays Bank	£11.17	—113p	Fears of further provisions
Booker	144½p	—43½p	Budgens bid talks
Allied Zurich	655p	—161½p	BAT demerger completed
Astec (BSR)	51½p	—12p	Profits warning
Arsenal	£3,700	+£1,600	Carlton bid approach
Manchester United	221½p	+62½p	BSkyB bids 240p a share

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones	7652.61 (+37.07)
S&P Composite	987.38 (+7.19)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average	13916.96 (-749.05)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng	7578.48 (-271.48)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index	1010.42 (-10.89)

Sydney:
AO	2468.3 (-58.0)

Frankfurt:
DAX	4737.15 (-10.18)

Singapore:
Straits	853.19 (-11.81)

Brussels:
BEL20	3171.34 (-33.59)

Paris:
CAC-40	3578.34 (-11.01)

Zurich:
SKA Gen	1341.40 (+0.70)

London:
FT 30	3167.3 (-30.6)
FTSE 100	5118.6 (-18.0)
FTSE 250	4697.3 (-54.5)
FTSE 350	2455.4 (-12.2)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2405.96 (-16.67)
FTSE All-Share	2383.63 (-12.04)
FTSE Non Financials	2478.41 (-2.33)
FTSE Fixed Interest	149.56 (+0.20)
FTSE Govt Secs	109.63 (+0.10)
Bargains	66760
SEAQ Volume	930.4m
US$	1.6641 (-0.0024)
German Mark	2.8411 (-0.0043)
Exchange Index	102.7 (-0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4502
£:SDR	1.2263
RPI	163.0 Jul (3.5%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	160.5 Jul (2.6%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Allied Zurich	655	+ 8½
Chaucer A Wts	12½	...
Coca-Cola (160)	155½	- 1½
Enterprise Cap B Pf	55½	...
GEC Put Wts	108½	+ 4½
Kiln	122½	...
MEPC Non Cum Pf B	93	- 3½
Metnor Grp	112½	...
Murray Ext Rtn Cap	15	- 1½
Murray Ext Rtn Inc	106½	- ½
Murray Ext Zero Dv	99	- ½
Parallel Pictures	28½	...
Private & Comm Fin	65	...
Sodra Petroleum	40½	...
SupaRule	90½	...
Syndct Cap Wts 98/02	21½	...
Tribune IT Index	504	- 8½
Walker Greenbank B	33	...
Wilmslow Group	2½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Cammell Ld n/p (520)	3½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
BTR	122p (+14¼p)
Chelsea Village	98½p (+10p)
Liberty	215p (+10p)
Delphi	351p (+16p)
Shell	358p (+16p)
Williams	332p (+14p)
Compass Gp	575p (+23p)
Rio Tinto	623p (+24p)
Provident	878p (+28p)
Imperial Tob	535p (+17p)

FALLS:
SOCO Intl	71½p (-11p)
Telspec	75p (-10p)
Sema Gp	515p (-65p)
Sappi	199p (-18½p)
Airtours	287p (-26p)
Cable Wireless	531p (-36p)
Br Airways	390p (-28p)
Allied Domecq	465p (-30p)
ARM Holdings	970p (-55p)
Lloyds TSB	652p (-33p)
Nat West	912p (-40p)
Wolseley	276p (-12p)
Bank Scotland	566p (-24p)
Ryl Bk Scot	780p (-33p)

Closing Prices Page 48

TEMPUS

Banking on independence

SCHRODERS'S fall from grace has been as dramatic as it has been quick. Shares in the merchant bank have virtually halved since hitting a peak of £19.99 in April and their descent shows no sign of slowing. The directors must be wondering whether they will ever see such heights again.

Much of the tumble in the share price reflects widespread fears about Schroders's exposure to Asia, disclosed yesterday as £375.1 million excluding Japan, against an asset base of more than £14 billion. But the stock has also been dragged down by concerns that the world's economy is teetering on the brink of recession — and that banks are first in the firing line.

Inevitably, the steep fall in Schroders's share price has rekindled speculation whether one of Britain's few remaining independent, quoted merchant banks is vulnerable to a takeover. Asked whether the bank has received any approaches, Peter Sedgwick, deputy chairman, side-steps the question by reaffirming the management's commitment to its independence.

Of course, the bank's main line of defence against predators is the enormous stockholding of chairman Win Bischoff and his family. Together, they control in excess of 40 per cent of the shares. They appear to have no intention of throwing in the towel just yet. Nor has the board given any consideration to a demerger, spinning off asset management to concentrate on investment banking where profit growth has been strongest in recent times. There is surely better value within the financial sector — with or without exposure to the Asian crisis.

Reed Executive

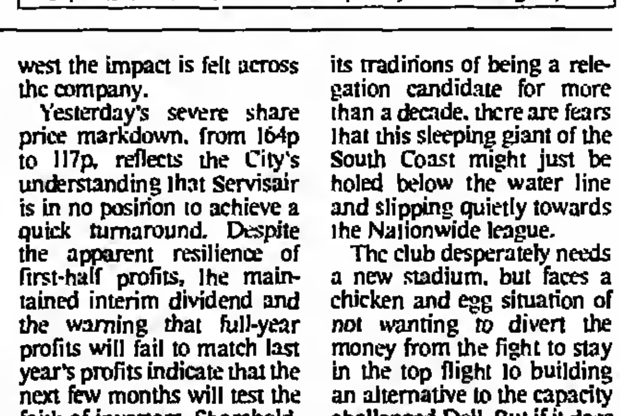
SHARES in recruitment companies always take a hammering when the economy looks as though it is about to slow down. Reed Executive is no exception, and its shares have lost nearly 40 per cent of their value since their high of 191p in March, and closed yesterday at a lowly 113½p.

The question now is whether they look undervalued. With the company's forecast earnings per share for the end of the year standing at just 22.6p, the stock is currently trading on a humble multiple of five.

There are many reasons, however, why this rating is justified. Perhaps the most important is the economy, which is already showing signs of a slowdown into next year. Even if it does not tip over into full-blown recession, Reed will suffer. The risk of owning shares in Reed can be demonstrated simply by looking at their erratic performance over the past five years. If the company focused simply on the IT market, the future may look brighter. But as it stands, Reed looks vulnerable.

The risk has been offset to some extent by a £5 million investment in information technology — which can automate much of the recruitment procedure — and its success so far in winning contracts to carry out the Government's New Deal programme.

But given the historical instability of the shares, and the recruitment sector, they should be avoided.



Servisair

WHENEVER there is consolidation in an industry there are winners and there are losers. In the airline industry the implications of being on the losing side are particularly acute. The industry is undergoing extensive change, with big airlines pooling resources to achieve significant cost savings.

The victims are the service companies, who must accept greatly reduced profit margins on contracts to stand a chance of remaining in the game.

Servisair has learnt this to its cost, losing an American Airlines cargo contract and suffering a severe erosion in margins at Stansted, where discount airlines are fighting a vicious price war for market share.

Servisair is no minnow but it lacks the size of many of its multinational rivals to be able to take genuine advantage of economies of scale. Thus, when a contract goes west the impact is felt across the company.

Yesterday's severe share price markdown, from 164p to 117p, reflects the City's understanding that Servisair is in no position to achieve a quick turnaround. Despite the apparent resilience of first-half profits, the maintained interim dividend and the warning that full-year profits will fail to match last year's profits indicate that the next few months will test the faith of investors. Shareholders who have remained loyal in the face of a collapse from 368p over twelve months may feel it is time to call it a day. They are probably right.

Southampton

SHOULD any media mogul want a truly pointless investment, there is of course Southampton Leisure. Literally pointless, that is. The Premiership club the company owns has a perfect record of four games, four defeats so far this season. Given its traditions of being a relegation candidate for more than a decade, there are fears that this sleeping giant of the South Coast might just be holed below the water line and slipping quietly towards the Nationwide league.

The club desperately needs a new stadium, but faces a chicken and egg situation of not wanting to divert the money from the fight to stay in the top flight to building an alternative to the capacity challenged Dell. But if it does not increase its income, it is bound to lose the battle to stay up one season soon. This dilemma is not helped by a share price which, notwithstanding this week's rally, looks about as healthy as the team's league position.

Assuming Rupert Lowe, Southampton's fleet-footed chairman, and David Jones, the team's talented manager, can deal with this dilemma, a market valuation of just over £15 million looks far too low. It is not the safest investment, but worth a punt.

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA
Sep	unq	Dec	1155-1150
Dec	1050-1049	Mar	1175 SLR
Mar	1078-1077	May	unq
May	1095-1094	Jul	-
Jul	1111 BID		
Sep	1134-1132	Volume: 7811	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)
Sep	unq	May	1540-1538
Nov	1635-1633	Jul	1540 SLR
Jan	1592-1568	Sep	unq
Mar	1565-1555	Volume: 5393	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)
Reuters		May	229.0-27.0
Spot: 214.2		Aug	237.0-33.1
Oct	212.5-11.9	Oct	240.5-35.0
Dec	219.0-18.6	Dec	243.0-38.0
Mar	224.0-23.6	Volume: 9368	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on September 10

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	36.69	76.89	81.13
(+/-)	-5.92	-11.12	-3.21
Eng/Wales	36.69	77.05	79.55
(+/-)	-5.92	-11.36	-2.70
(%)	+6.0	-1.0	+3.0
Scotland	unq	76.19	87.30
(+/-)		-10.16	-4.77
(%)		-4.0	-3.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)
Brent Physical	12.80	-0.05
Brent 15 day (Oct)	13.30	-0.15
Brent 15 day (Nov)	13.55	-0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Oct)	14.60	-0.25
W Texas Intermediate (Nov)	14.85	-0.15

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)
	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	144 (+2)	147 (+2)
Gasoil EEC	125 (+4)	128 (+6)
3.5 Fuel Oil	59 (+2)	62 (+2)
Naphtha	125 (+11)	129 (+13)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL
Oct	125.00-25.25	Jan	132.50-133.0
Nov	127.75-28.00	Feb	134.50-34.75
Dec	130.25-30.50	Vol: 27842	

BRENT (6.00pm)
Oct	13.18-13.20	Jan	n/a
Nov	13.46-13.48	Feb	n/a
Dec	13.75 SLR	Vol: 73805	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Sep	73.30	Sep	71.75
Nov	74.25	Nov	72.75
Jan	76.25	Jan	74.90
Mar	77.75	Mar	76.50
May	79.35	May	77.50
Volume: 377		Volume: 30	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)
	Open	Close
Nov	unq	80.0
Mar		116.5
Apr	158.0	155.0
	Volume: 146	

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/kg)

Oct 47.25-47.75

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)
	High	Low	Close
Sep 98	unq	—	875
Oct 98	970	955	966
Nov 98	unq	—	993
Jan 99	1005	986	1005
Vol: 49 lots		Open interest: 1760	
	Index 855 +9		

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day) — Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1666.0-1667.0	1689.0-1690.0	257700
Lead ($/tonne)	515.50-516.00	526.00-526.50	175750
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1012.0-1013.0	1034.0-1035.0	333100
Tin ($/tonne)	5560.0-5570.0	5415.0-5425.0	19670
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1344.0-1345.0	1370.5-1371.5	2447675
Nickel ($/tonne)	4090.0-4100.0	4145.0-4150.0	116994

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Oct	Jan	Apr	Puts Oct	Jan	Apr
ASDA	180	14½	22	28	5½	11	15½
("187½)	200	6	13	18½	16½	22	26
Abbey Nat	1100	83	137½	158	48	79½	98½
("1128)	1150	58½	113½	133	73	104½	123
Alld Dom	460	26	43	50	17	36	44½
("464½)	500	10	27	34	41½	61	68½
BAA	550	34½	58½	71	19	38	44
("561½)	600	13	36½	48½	47	66	70
BAT Ind	550	32	61	—	23½	49½	—
("557)	600	12½	40½	—	53½	78½	—
Barclays	1100	94½	132	173½	63	97½	128½
("1117½)	1150	70½	107½	149½	86½	123	153½
Bass	789	65½	—	—	18	—	—
("830½)	845	40	—	—	46	—	—
Boots	950	62½	95½	121	30½	55	61
("978½)	1000	36	70	95½	53	78	85
Br Airways	390	31	50½	66½	24	43	51½
("391½)	420	18½	38½	52½	39½	60	68
BP	750	66	92½	114	19	47½	55½
("792)	800	38	67½	89	39½	73	79½
Br Steel	100	8½	12½	16½	7	11½	15
("100½)	110	4½	8½	12½	12½	17½	21
C&W	500	58½	91	109½	31	48	59
("529)	550	33½	68½	87½	55½	74½	85
CGU Plc	800	81½	121½	126	31½	57	62½
("845)	850	54	97	100½	54½	82	86½
GlaxoW	1700	121	213½	258½	70½	127½	157½
("1741½)	1800	77½	165	210	119	178½	206
HSBC	1100	100½	172	203½	52	105½	143
("1141)	1150	76	148½	180	75	131	168½
Halifax	700	53	88½	106½	26½	49½	66
("723)	750	28½	64½	82	52½	74½	91
ICI	550	44	77½	92½	25	45	65
("565½)	600	23	54½	70	53	71½	94
Land Sec	850	56½	90½	111½	21½	45	52½
("881½)	900	31	65	85½	46	68½	76
M&S	460	30½	49½	61	16½	31½	37
("470)	500	14	30½	44½	39½	52½	57½
Natl Pwr	500	44½	59	72½	15½	31	38½
("524)	550	19	35½	49	40½	57	64½
Nat West	900	61	113	130½	47½	85½	98
("909)	950	39	89½	106	71	110½	124
Reed Intl	460	43½	65	82	15½	25	39
("489)	500	21	44½	62½	33½	44	58½
Reuters	426	31½	—	—	18½	—	—
("438½)	472	12½	—	—	45½	—	—
Ryl&Sun	420	51	70½	84½	0½	26	30½
("456)	460	26	51	64½	36½	45	57½
Safeway	300	24	35½	44	9	20½	27
("314)	330	9½	21½	30	24	35½	41
Sainsbury	500	57½	74	83½	10	21½	33
("546½)	550	26	47	65	30	43	55
[illegible]	330	32½	47	57	9	19	25
("355½)	360	15½	31½	41½	27½	33	38½
SmKl Bch	650	63½	95½	123	25½	48½	63½
("683½)	700	37½	72	99½	47	74	89
Std Char	420	41½	75	82	30	53½	70
("425½)	460	26½	57½	65	54	73	93
Thames W	1059	78½	114½	130½	18	46	54½

	Series	Calls			Puts		
("1108)	1114	46	84	107	39½	71½	79½
Vodafone	750	69	113½	148½	53½	83½	102½
("765½)	800	47	91	126	80	110	129
Woolwich	324	21	—	—	12	—	—
("330½)	354	8½	—	—	29½	—	—
Zeneca	2200	134½	223½	289	100½	172½	192½
("2232½)	2300	88½	176	239½	150	223½	242½
	Series	Calls Nov	Feb	May	Puts Nov	Feb	May
BTR	115	14½	—	—	10	—	—
("118½)	127	10	—	—	17½	—	—
Blue Circ	260	24	33½	39½	21½	26½	33½
("264)	280	15½	25	31	33	37½	45
Br Aero	360	49	69	77	18	28½	34½
("389)	390	33½	55	63½	32	43½	49½
Br Telcom	750	72½	104	133½	36	59	76½
("781)	800	47½	81	110	60½	84	101½
Cadbury	850	85½	110	134	33½	48½	69½
("892½)	900	59½	85	109½	57½	73	93½
Carlton Cms	390	46½	65½	74	16	27½	33½
("418½)	420	29½	50½	59½	29	42	48½
Diageo	500	62½	88	94½	28	34	42½
("[illegible])	550	39	63	70	43½	58½	66½
Energy Gp	800	43	—	—	—	—	—
("840)	850	1	—	—	10½	—	—
Gallaher	390	38½	52½	62	16	27½	33½
("414½)	420	24	37½	47	30½	43	48
GEC	430	63	79½	92½	18	29	35½
("459)	460	40½	58½	73½	33	47½	53½
Hanson	330	24½	32½	38½	18½	26	33
("331)	360	12½	17½	23½	38	42½	48½
Imp Tob	500	57	66½	76	11½	24½	31
("537½)	550	28½	41	52½	30½	48	56½
Kingfshr	475	47	65½	—	25	32	—
("498)	500	34½	53½	64½	35	44	53½
Lasmo	140	25	34	37	5	11½	14½
("159)	160	13½	24	27½	14	20½	24
Ladbroke	220	22½	35	40	17	23½	29½
("225)	240	14	26	31	27	34	40
Lucasvar	180	26	33½	38½	7½	11	13½
("199)	200	15	23	28½	15½	20½	23
P&O	650	37	64	72	41	52½	63½
("654)	700	18	43½	52	71	82	93½
Prudentl	750	84	110	128½	38½	54	66
("794)	800	58½	86	104	63	79½	90
Rio Tinto	600	53	70	88½	34½	52	69½
("617½)	650	31	56½	69	62½	78½	98
R-Royce	180	30	36½	42	8	14	18

	Series	Calls			Puts		
("198½)	200	20	27½	33½	17	24	28
Tesco	153	18	23½	—	5½	10	—
("164½)	167	10½	17	—	12	18½	—
Utd Bisc	193	25	30	—	8½	8½	—
("212½)	216	12½	17½	—	17	18	—
	Series	Calls Sep	Dec	Mar	Puts Sep	Dec	Mar
AlldLeic	800	70	102½	130	32	42	63
("839½)	850	43	77	105	44½	66½	86½
	Series	Calls Sep	Dec	Mar	Puts Sep	Dec	Mar
BG	330	38½	41	54	2	14	19½
("357½)	360	0	28½	39	8½	22½	33
BSkyB	460	21½	46	60½	4½	25	38½
("479½)	500	2	25½	41	24	45	56
Br Bio	35	3½	8½	11½	1	5½	9
("37)	40	1½	6½	10	4	8½	12
Centrica	100	8	13½	16½	1½	6½	0
("107½)	110	2	8	11½	6	11	14
Dixons	550	32	62	77	3	24½	36
("580½)	600	5½	36	52	23	48½	60½
EMI	390	19½	53	67	6½	30	42½
("400½)	420	6½	39	53	23	46	58
Granada	750	45½	87½	108	8½	37	56½
("789)	800	15½	61½	84	29	80½	79½
GUS	750	16½	62	83	10½	43	58½
("756½)	800	1½	39½	60½	45½	70½	86
Lloyds TSB	600	47½	99	125½	4	44½	63½
("644½)	650	20½	74	102½	22	69	69
Lonrho	224	27	—	—	—	—	—
("251)	256	2½	—	—	6½	—	—
Norwich	430	17	47½	60½	8½	37	45
("427½)	460	5½	32½	43½	34½	59½	67½
Orange	600	19½	77½	111	15½	54	84
("601½)	650	4½	57½	89½	50½	93	112
Railtrck	1500	63	159	206	9½	83½	115
("1560½)	1600	12½	113½	157	59½	132½	165½
Scot Pwr	550	31½	56½	71	4	26½	32
("579½)	600	3½	30½	46	25	47	57
Tarmac	80	2½	9½	13½	2	9	12
("80½)	80	—	6	10	9½	15½	18½
Tomkins	220	7½	25½	31	3½	14	20
("223½)	240	1	17	22½	17	25	31½
Unilever	500	39½	62½	70½	2	22½	29½
("536)	550	10	35½	52½	21	44½	53½

September 11 Total: 28793 Calls: 11239 Puts: 17554

FTSE INDEX ("5165½)

Strike	Calls Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Puts Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
4950	227½	380½	480½	578	—	51½	169	256	319½	—
5000	192	346	450½	548½	815½	66	207	285½	339	556
5050	156	316	421	519	—	81	227	305	354	—
5100	127	286½	391	489	762½	102½	243½	325	371½	600
5150	99	256½	361½	459½	—	125	264	345½	386½	—
5200	76	227	332½	430	709½	153	285	366	401½	644
5250	56	199	303	400	—	184½	310	387½	420½	—
5300	39½	177½	278½	370½	656½	221½	338½	414½	445	698

September 11 Total: 3979 Calls: 1839 Puts: 2140

*Underlying security price

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Sep 98	114.05	114.05	113.91	113.51	41
Previous open interest 156869	Dec 98	114.50	114.50	113.50	113.13	75540
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Dec 98	114.30	114.30	113.50	113.68	76
Previous open interest 5393	Mar 99				112.35	0
Five Year Gilt	Sep 98				106.27	0
Previous open interest 2274	Dec 98				106.42	0
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Dec 98	111.20	111.60	110.89	110.98	20606
Previous open interest 81600	Mar 99				110.96	0
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Dec 98	137.81	138.13	137.81	138.03	2504
	Mar 99	137.12	137.12	137.12	137.20	100
Three Mth Sterling	Sep 98	92.570	92.600	92.520	92.570	39842
	Dec 98	93.010	93.060	92.930	92.970	75370
Previous open interest 1194304	Mar 99	93.380	93.420	93.260	93.320	54335
Three Mth Euromark	Sep 98	96.535	96.545	96.525	96.525	46813
Previous open interest 2710334	Dec 98	96.510	96.535	96.470	96.485	119176
Three Mth Eurolira	Sep 98	95.020	95.060	94.980	95.030	31834
Previous open interest 791325	Dec 98	96.320	96.340	96.240	96.270	28679
Three Mth Euroswiss	Sep 98	98.470	98.480	98.430	98.450	7267
Previous open interest 227326	Dec 98	98.380	98.420	98.320	98.340	16724
Three Mth Euro	Sep 98	95.850	95.860	95.850	95.860	217
Previous open interest 34562	Dec 98	96.420	96.420	96.390	96.390	306
FTSE 100	Sep 98	5050.0	5132.0	5001.0	5123.0	58067
Previous open interest 226854	Dec 98	5110.0	5203.0	5080.0	5194.5	23356

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7½ Finance Hse 8

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7¼ Low 5½ Week fixed: 7¼

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6⁹⁄₁₆; 3 mth 6⁹⁄₁₆. Sell: 2 mth 6½; 3 mth: 6½.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	7½-7⅜	7½-7⅜	7⅜-7¼	7⅛-7	
Sterling Money Rates:	7½-7⅜	7⅜-7¼	7⅜-7¼	7¼-7⅛	7-6⅞
Interbank:	7½-7⅜	7⅜-7¼	7⅜-7¼	7¼-7⅛	7-6⅞
Overnight: open 7½, close 6.					
Local Authority Deps:	7½	n/a	7¼	7⅛	6⅞
Sterling CDs:	7⅜-7¼	7⅜-7¼	7⅜-7¼	7¼-7⅛	7-6⅞
Dollar CDs:	5.47	n/a	5.44	5.41	5.40
Building Society CDs:	7⅜-7¼	7⅜-7¼	7¼-7⅛	7¼-7⅛	7-7

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £719m allotted: £100m; Bids: £98.255% received: n/a%; Last week: £98.23% received: 100%; Avge rate: £6.9891% last wk £7.0995%; Next week: £100m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅝-5½	5⅝-5½	5⅝-5½	5⅝-5½	5¼-4¾
Deutschemark:	3⅜-2¾	3½-3⅜	3½-3⅜	3⅜-3¼	4-3
French Franc:	3⅜-3¼	3½-3⅜	3½-3⅜	3⅜-3¼	3½-2½
Swiss Franc:	1½-1¼	1½-1¼	1⅝-1½	1⅝-1½	2¼-1½
Yen:	¼-⅛	¼-⅛	¼-⅛	¼-⅛	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $294.75-295.25 Close: $292.70-293.20 High: $296.20-296.70
Low: $291.00-291.50 AM: $293.75 PM: $293.35

Krugerrand: $295.00-297.00 (£174.50-176.50)

Platinum: $365.00 (£216.35) Silver: $4.995 (£2.965) Palladium: $290.50 (£172.20)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Sept 11	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.2048-3.2186	3.2049-3.2076	1½-1pr	3½-3½pr
Brussels	58.570-58.880	58.616-58.714	22-17pr	60-53pr
Copenhagen	10.826-10.877	10.844-10.855	½-½pr	½-½pr
Dublin	1.1332-1.1411	1.1341-1.1385	16-9pr	51-42pr
Frankfurt	2.8405-2.8538	2.8407-2.8431	½-½pr	2½-2½pr
Lisbon	291.07-292.64	291.22-291.55	½-½pr	2½-2½pr
Madrid	241.20-242.52	241.48-241.78	66-56pr	197-178pr
Milan	2798.8-2821.5	2806.7-2810.5	60-44pr	176-153pr
Montreal	2.5452-2.5591	2.5468-2.5490	0.44-0.36pr	0.83-0.72pr
New York	1.6634-1.6876	1.6634-1.6843	0.27-0.25pr	0.789-0.757pr
Oslo	12.700-12.774	12.700-12.711	½-½ds	½-½ds
Paris	9.5230-9.5700	9.5343-9.5411	3½-3pr	9½-8½pr
Stockholm	13.199-13.397	13.199-13.215	½-½pr	½-½pr
Tokyo	220.45-221.52	220.52-220.79	1½-1½pr	4-3½pr
Vienna	19.979-20.076	19.988-20.005	½-½pr	2½-1½pr
Zurich	2.3315-2.3420	2.3349-2.3378	1½-1½pr	3½-3½pr

Source: Extel — Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.6641-1.6655
Austria	11.90-11.91
Belgium (Com)	34.87-34.92
Canada	1.5136-1.5141
Denmark	6.4295-6.4345
France	5.6683-5.6758
Germany	1.6908-1.6913
Hong Kong	7.7495-7.7500
Ireland	1.4778-1.4828
Italy	1669.4-1670.9
Japan	130.90-130.95
Malaysia	3.7999-3.8001
Netherlands	1.9070-1.9090
Norway	7.5555-7.5655
Portugal	173.33-173.43
Singapore	1.7160-1.7190
Spain	142.93-143.03
Sweden	7.8486-7.8536
Switzerland	1.3894-1.3904

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6837-1.6862
Australia dollar	2.8064-2.8104
Bahrain dinar	0.6280-0.6440
Brazil real*	1.9766-1.9793
China yuan	unq
Cyprus pound	0.8335-0.8545
Finland markka	8.5725-8.7165
Greece drachma	485.5-496.9
Hong Kong dollar	13.0641-13.0727
India rupee	70.83-72.63
Indonesia rupiah	unq
Kuwait dinar KD	0.5060-0.5190
Malaysia ringgit	6.4059-6.4100
New Zealand dollar	3.2419-3.2501
Pakistan rupee	82.65 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.0750-6.2090
Singapore dollar	2.8928-2.8996
S Africa rand (com)	10.258-10.758
U A E dirham	6.1300-6.2670

Barclays Treasury Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	803	Lloyds TSB	16,955
ASDA Gp	5,420	LucasVarity	4,110
Abbey Nat	4,529	Marks Spr	6,653
Alliance & Leic	8,968	Misys	204
Allied Dom	5,781	Nat Grid	8,339
Allied Zrch	12,525	Nat Power	5,673
Amvescap	1,973	NatWst Bk	8,109
AB Foods	803	Norwich Un	5,920
Bk of Scot	5,585	Nycmd Amr	764
BAA	4,037	Orange	2,641
Barclays	9,758	P & O	4,710
Bass	1,619	Pearson	1,141
BG	11,183	PowerGen	1,247
Billiton	2,971	Prudential	5,507
Blue Circle	2,367	Railtrack	1,519
BOC	390	Rank Group	863
Boots	2,394	Reckitt Col	394
BAe	4,879	Reed Intl	2,383
BA	6,141	Rentokil	6,476
Brit Am Tob	9,050	Reuters	6,497
Brit Energy	2,158	Rio Tinto	3,790
Br Land	3,038	RMC	434
BP	16,895	Rolls Royce	5,021
Brit Steel	4,592	Ryl & Sun	4,973
BSkyB	1,558	Ryl Bk Sct	1,411
BT	12,408	Safeway	2,227
BTR	35,700	Sainsbury	4,398
CGU	3,269	Schroders	704
Cable Wire	8,966	Scot & New	2,726
Cadbury	3,633	Scot Power	4,910
Carlton Cms	3,254	Svrn Trent	856
Centrica	15,990	Shell Trans	23,974
Compass Gp	1,187	Siebe	2,694
Diageo	9,860	Smiths Ind	1,248
EMI	1,104	SmKl Bch	8,431
Enterpr Oil	2,549	Stagecoach	315
Gen Elec	4,986	Std Chard	5,301
GKN	1,753	Sun Life	371
Glaxo Well	7,910	Tesco	16,098
Granada	3,001	Thames W	517
GUS	2,866	Tomkins	6,921
GRE	3,596	Unilever	15,150
ICI	2,095	Utd News	3,204
HSBC	6,939	Utd Utilities	3,664
Halifax	2,764	Vodafone	10,344
Hays	726	WPP	5,915
Kingfisher	5,308	Whitbread	2,263
Ladbroke	2,044	Williams	743
Land Secs	2,249	Woolwich	3,128
Legal & Gn	2,721	Zeneca	1,460

WALL STREET

	Sep 11 midday	Sep 10 close
AMP Inc	39½	38½
AMR Corp	53	52½
AT & T	55½	55½
Abbott Labs	40½	40½
Advanced Micro	17	16½
Aetna Life	63½	63
Ahmanson (HF)	54	54½
Air Prod & Chem	31	31
AirTouch Comm	57½	58½
Albertson's	51½	50½
Alcan Aluminm	22½	22½
Allied Signal	33½	33½
Alum Co of Am	66½	64½
Amerada Hess	52½	52½
AEP	45½	45½
Amer Express	72½	69½
Amer Genl Corp	62½	61½
Amer Home Pr	52½	52½
Amer Intl	76	76½
Amer Online	93½	93½
Amer Stores	29½	29½
Amer Standard	33½	33½
Ameritech	45½	45½
Amgen	69½	71
Amoco	50½	49½
Andrew Corp	14½	13½
Anheuser-Busch	52½	52½
Apple Computer	38½	38½
Archer Daniels	15½	16½
Armco	4½	4½
Armstrng Wrld	49½	49
Asarco	18½	18½
Atl Richfield	64½	64½
Autml Corp	8½	7½
Auto Data Pro	71½	70½
Avery Dennison	47½	47½
Avon Products	54½	55
Baker Hughes	21½	20½
Baltim Gas & El	30½	30
Banc One	41	41½
BankAmerica	55½	56½
Bank of NY	26½	26½
Bankers Tr Crp	81½	82½
Bausch & Lomb	40½	40½
Baxter Intl	58½	58½
Becton Dickinsn	40½	42½
Bell Atlantic	43½	42½
BellSouth	66½	66½
Best Foods	45½	44½
Black & Decker	44½	44½
Block (H&R)	41½	40½
Boeing	33½	33½
Boise Cascade	24½	23½
Boston Scien	67½	68½
Bristol Myrs Sq	103½	104½
Browning Ferris	33½	33½
Brunswick	13½	12½
Burlington Nthn	27½	27½
CMS Energy Corp	39½	39½
CSX	39½	40½
CBS Corp	23½	23½
Campbell Soup	49½	48½
Carolina Pwr	42½	42½
Case Corp	23½	23½
Caterpillar	45½	45½
Central & SW	27	26½
Champion Intl	30½	29½
Chase Manhat	42	42½
Chevron Corp	81	80½
Chrysler	51½	51½
Chubb Corp	64½	62½
Cigna Corp	59½	59½
Citicorp	89	88½
Clorox	97½	98½
Coastal Corp	29½	29½
Coca Cola	61½	60½
Coca Cola Ent	26½	26½
Colgate-Palm	68½	68½
Columbia Energy	52	51½
ColumbiaHCA	21½	21½
Compaq Comp	31½	30½
Comp Ass Int	29½	29½
Conagra	27½	27½
Cons Edison	46½	47
Cons Nat Gas	42½	42½
Cooper Inds	43½	42½
Corning Inc	25	24½
Ctwide Credit	37½	37½
Crestar Finl	51½	50½
Crown Cork	35	34½
Daimler Bz ADR	91	91½
Dana Corp	40½	39½
Dayton Hudson	37½	37½
Deere	32½	32½
Dell Computer	56½	54½
Delta Air Lines	95	93½
Deluxe Corp	30	29½
Dillard Dept St	30½	28½
Disney (Walt)	27	26½
Dominion Res	41½	41½
Donelley (RR)	38½	37½
Dover Corp	26	25½
Dow Chemical	77½	76½
Dow Jones	48½	47½
Dresser	30½	29½
Duke Energy	63	63½
Du Pont	54½	55½
Eastman Chem	50½	50½
Eastman Kodak	78½	79
Eaton Corp	60½	59½

	Sep 11 midday	Sep 10 close
Edison Intl	26½	26½
Elect Data Sys	35½	34½
Emerson Elec	57½	57
Engelhard Corp	18½	18½
Enron Corp	45½	44½
Entergy	29½	29½
Ethyl Corp	4½	4½
Exxon	69	69½
FDX Holding	48½	48½
FMC Corp	53½	53½
FPL Group	67	66½
Fifth Third Banc	52½	54
Fleet Finl Grp	71½	70½
Fluor Corp	39½	39½
Ford Motor	42½	43½
Fort James	27½	27
Fortune Brands	27½	28
Franklin Res	27½	26½
GTE Corp	48½	47½
Gannett	58½	58½
Gap Inc Del	60½	59½
Gateway 2000	48½	47½
Gen Dynamics	45½	44½
Gen Electric	76½	77½
Gen Mills	66½	65½
Gen Motors	56½	55½
Gen Reinsurance	195	195½
Gen Signal	36½	36
Genuine Parts	31½	30½
Georgia Pac	38½	36½
Gillette	40	39½
Glaxo Welle ADR	56½	59½
Goodrich (BF)	29	28
Goodyear Tire	47½	47
Great Lakes	38½	38½
Halliburton	31½	30½
Harcourt General	47½	46½
Heinz (HJ)	54½	54½
Hercules	28½	28½
Hershey Foods	65	65½
Hewlett Packard	49	49
Hilton Hotels	18½	19½
Home Depot	39½	39½
Homestake Mng	11½	11½
Honeywell	66½	65½
Household Intl	38½	38½
Houston Inds	28½	28½
Humana	13½	14½
Ikon Office	7½	7½
Illinois Tool	45½	45½
Illinova	26½	26½
INCO	9½	9½
Ingersoll Rand	38½	37½
Inland Steel	18½	18½
Intel Corp	82½	79½
IBM	123½	121½
Intl Flav & Fr	37	37½
Intl Paper	41½	41½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	75½	75½
Kellogg	31½	32
Kerr-McGee	42½	42½
Kimberly-Clark	37½	37½
Kmart	13½	13½
Knight-Ridder	46½	46½
Lilly (Eli)	73½	72½
Limited Inc	22½	22½
Lincoln Nat	88½	89
Loews	91½	91½
Liz Claiborne	26½	26½
Lockheed Martin	96½	95½
Louisiana Pac	19½	19½
Lucent Tech	76½	75½
MCI Comm	56½	55½
Manpower Inc	20½	20
Marketspan Cp	26½	26½
Marriott Int A	28½	27½
Marsh & McLnn	50½	50½
Masco Corp	24½	24½
May Dept St	55½	54½
Maytag Corp	46½	46½
McDonalds	60½	59½
McGraw Hill	74½	74½
Mead Corp	27½	26½
MediaOne Group	44	44½
Meditrust Corp	14½	13½
Medtronic	55½	55½
Mellon Bk	53½	53½
Merck Inc	126½	123½
Merrill Lynch	53½	55½
Microsoft	102½	100½
Minnesota Mine	69½	69½
Mirage Resorts	16½	16½
Mobil Corp	74½	74½
Monsanto	56½	56½
Morgan (JP)	84½	85½
Motorola Inc	41½	41½
Mylan Labs	27½	27½
Natl Semi	8½	8½
Natl Service Ind	35½	35½
Navistar Intl	24½	23½
NY Times A	27½	29½
Newmont Mng	21½	20½
Nike B	32½	32½
NL Industries	21	21½
Nordstrom	26½	25½
Norfolk Sthn	29½	29½
Nthn State Pwr	27½	27½
Norwest Corp	31½	30½
Occidental Pet	19½	19½
Office Depot	21½	21½

	Sep 11 midday	Sep 10 close
Oracle	25½	22½
Oryx Energy Co	13½	13½
Owens Corning	34½	35½
PPG Industries	50½	50½
PMI Group	52½	53½
PNC Bank	43½	43
PP&L Res	24	24½
Paccar	22½	22½
PaineWebber	31½	31½
Pall Corp	20½	20
Parker Hannifin	29½	29½
Peco Energy	32½	32½
Penney (JC)	51	51½
Pennzoil	37½	37½
Pepsico	26½	26½
Pfizer	97½	94½
Pharm & Upjohn	44½	44½
Phelps Dodge	47½	46½
Philip Morris	42½	43
Phillips Pet	45½	45½
Pitney Bowes	50½	50½
Polaroid	24½	25½
Procter & Gmbl	69½	69
Providian	56½	55½
Pub Serv E & G	36½	36
Quaker Oats	54½	54½
Ralston Purina	28½	27½
Raychem Corp	29	28½
Raytheon B	44½	45½
Reebok Intl	15½	15½
Reliastar Fin	37½	37
Reynolds Metals	49½	49½
Rockwell Intl	38½	38½
Rohm & Haas	27½	26½
Royal Dutch	48½	47½
Rubbermaid	27½	27½
SBC Comms	38	37½
Safeco Corp	42½	42½
St Paul's Cos	31½	31
Sara Lee Corp	51½	50½
Schering Plough	92½	90½
Schlumberger	50½	49½
Seagram	31½	31½
Sears Roebuck	45½	43½
Shell Trans	36½	36
Sherwin Wllms	21½	23½
Silicon Graphics	10½	10½
Snap-On-Tools	29½	29½
Southern Co	27½	27½
Southtrust	32½	32½
Sprint Corp	68½	68½
Stanley Works	38½	38½
Starwood H & R	29½	29½
Sun Company	32	32½
Sun Microsys	47½	47½
Suntrust	55½	54½
Supervalu	21½	21½
Synovus Fin	18½	18½
Sysco Corp	22½	22½
TRW Inc	44½	44½
TJG Hldgs	12½	12½
Tandy Corp	55½	55½
Temple Inland	43½	42½
Tenet Healthcare	26	22½
Tenneco	32½	32½
Texaco	59½	59
Texas Inst	51½	50½
Texas Utilities	42	42½
Textron	60½	60½
Thermo Elect	16½	16½
Time Warner	84½	85
Times-Mirror A	56½	55½
Timken	17½	17½
Torchmark	37	37½
Toys R Us	17½	17½
Transamerica	105½	104½
Travelers	38½	39½
Tribune	60½	61
Tyco Intl	52½	52½
UST Inc	27½	27½
US Bancorp	39½	39½
UAL	61½	61
Unitrin	57½	55½
US Inds	14½	14½
US West	50½	50½
USAirways Group	48½	48½
USX Marathon	31½	31½
Unicom	35½	35½
Unilever NV	66½	66½
Union Camp	35½	34½
Union Carbide	38½	39½
Union Pacific	38½	39½
Unisys Corp	22½	21½
United Tech	75½	75½
Unocal Corp	34½	34½
VF Corp	37½	37
Venator Group	9½	8½
Walgreen	42	41½
Wal-Mart Stores	59	58½
Warner-Lambert	68½	68½
Wells Fargo	306	300½
Weyerhaeuser	38½	38½
Whirlpool	46½	45½
Whitman	16½	15½
Winn Dixie	37½	36½
Witco Corp	20½	20½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	75½	74½
Xerox	86½	85½
Xilinx Inc	36½	34½

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 487 7888				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	136.62	145.60	- 0.02	
-do- NAV to Jun 19	137.71	137.71		
UK Equity Safeguard	108.96	116.11	- 0.50	2.02
-do- NAV to Jun 19	108.95	108.95		
US Equity Safeguard	97.94	93.74	- 1.19	
Cash	956.06	980.84	+ 1.00	6.25
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	364.10	387.30	- 2.00	
UK Smaller Cos	78.71	84.16	+ 1.48	0.50
FTSE 250 Index	84.68	101.36	+ 0.75	1.00
Geared Un Index	1979.85	2090.13	- 15.00	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	63.90	66.70†	+ 0.80	6.00
Monthly Inc	41.51	44.40†	- 0.03	7.98
International Funds				
American Gen	291.20	308.10	- 11.30	
Americas Strat	155.07	165.65	- 5.27	
JS US Index	2243.27	2383.63	- 12.00	4.50
European Cos	390.20	412.90†	- 1.60	
European Stock	170.35	182.10	- 1.60	
Japan Gen	86.76	93.84	- 0.63	
Asia Pacific	48.14	51.26	- 0.53	1.00
Pacific Strat	69.42	74.34	- 1.48	
Greater China	116.08	127.13†	- 1.84	
Latin America	45.13	48.26	- 7.77	
Int Growth	161.43	172.65	- 2.95	0.11
Balanced Exempt	157.00	163.60	- 3.10	1.70
Global Strategy	39.89	42.00	- 0.54	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 563 231				
AXA Equity & Law Unit Trust				
Balanced Acc	71.64	76.43	- 1.23	2.10
Balanced Inc	66.10	69.35	- 1.13	2.15
Bnt Exempt	111.20	118.00	- 2.08	2.16
Bnt Fndpnt: Acc	150.40	160.00†	- 2.40	4.26
Bnt Fndpnt: Inc	93.57	99.54†	- 3.26	4.26
Europe	490.00	521.30†	- 15.40	
General: Acc	821.50	873.90†	- 17.20	2.19
General: Inc	659.49	700.48†	- 22.30	2.19
Gilts/Fed Int Acc	355.70	370.00†	+ 4.00	5.61
Gilts/Fed Int Inc	191.50	187.00†	+ 1.90	5.61
Global Opps	112.10	119.30	- 2.50	0.22
Higher Inc Acc #	1089.00	1159.00	- 19.00	4.26
Higher Inc Inc #	581.80	586.20	- 9.80	4.26
Japan Acc	28.58	30.40	- 0.02	
Pan America	419.30	446.10	- 9.00	
Pac Basin Acc	205.50	219.00	- 1.40	4.14
UK Growth Acc	565.70	601.00	- 12.10	2.13
UK Growth Inc	356.40	374.10	- 7.50	2.13
AXA Net Life Trusts				
Discretionary	90.26	93.04	- 0.90	
Extra Inc Inc #	41.01	43.31	- 0.23	5.81
High Yld Inc	150.00	117.90†	- 1.10	3.62
Inc & Gth Inc	105.30	112.00	- 1.60	2.51
Pacific Bnts Part	25.10	26.70	+ 0.00	1.15
Up Income Inc	73.25	78.01	- 1.28	2.61
UK Smaller Cos	40.00	42.51	+ 0.32	2.12
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 333				
Gilts & Fixed Int	152.90	162.30†	+ 2.40	5.48
High Inc Equity	228.50	235.80†	+ 0.48	4.39
Worldwide Bond	288.50	304.00†	+ 4.20	3.46
American Growth	519.00	554.10	- 6.40	0.25
Asian Pacific	143.80	153.60		0.81
Assets & Earnings	342.50	356.60	- 0.60	2.79
Euro Capital Acc	369.48	388.10	- 2.70	0.26
Extra Inc	41.53	44.39†	- 0.00	9.84
General	305.50	326.10†	+ 0.70	2.96
Global Opps	70.46	74.96	- 0.54	0.43
Japan	60.42	71.00	- 1.03	
Managed Inc	53.65	57.07†	- 0.30	4.47
Mastermint	187.70	194.30	- 0.10	1.24
NS Emerging Cos	191.40	204.50	- 0.80	
Global	108.14	54.03	+ 0.35	1.91
International	138.20	140.90	- 1.30	
Dividend & Growth	82.02	87.25	- 0.98	3.53
Global Gwth & Inc	81.16	86.66	- 0.52	2.01
Lat America	34.02	36.33	- 0.06	1.94
Capital Reserve	151.70	161.30	+ 1.00	4.32
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 0500				
NSP Uk Growth	160.70	116.10	- 1.30	1.99
Equity Income #	140.70	150.10	- 4.70	4.11
Equity Income I	101.60	109.50	- 1.60	4.93
Smaller Cos	68.36	90.80†	- 0.31	2.54
International	130.60	138.96†	- 3.00	1.17
ABERDEEN PROLIFIC UT MGRS LTD				
Emp 0345 080 686 Dlg: 0800 833 500				
Amer Dep Acc	292.25	307.66	- 11.03	
Asia Pacific	42.16	44.61	- 0.31	1.32
Emg Mkts Inc	30.73	32.51	- 0.10	1.39
Ethical Inc	63.29	67.07	- 0.10	0.93
Euro Gwth Acc	123.95	130.14	- 5.00	
Euro Smlr Cnts Acc	134.08	141.31	- 4.39	
Extra Inc Inc	203.55	215.39	- 1.43	4.36
Extra Inc Acc	282.31	298.73	- 1.99	4.36
FE Emg Econ	50.02	52.93	- 0.20	2.13
Fixed Int Inc #	28.46	29.87	- 0.30	6.74
Frontier Uk Inc	48.28	50.66†	- 1.12	
Fund Of Inv Inc #	200.01	211.65	- 1.60	2.01
Fund Of Inv Acc	436.93	462.35	- 3.07	2.01
Gilt Inc Inc #	52.25	54.98†	- 0.16	6.33
Global Bond Inc	42.92	44.36	- 0.14	5.51
Global Inc Inc	33.17	34.87	- 0.30	3.43
Global Inc Acc	51.79	54.54	- 0.47	3.43
High Inc Inc	145.05	153.50	- 2.24	4.37
High Inc Acc	195.63	207.03	- 3.02	4.31
Japan Inc	133.76	140.26†	- 0.62	
Latin Amer Inc	21.24	23.81†	- 7.32	2.48
Master Inc Inc	59.92	63.40	+ 0.64	4.36
Master Gwth Inc	53.21	58.42	+ 0.61	1.17
North Amer Inc	230.00	241.12	- 4.16	
North Amer Acc	230.35	241.41	- 4.18	
Pan Stat Inc	83.46	88.31	- 1.04	1.08
Special Sit Inc	157.86	166.81	+ 1.79	1.55
Special Sit Acc	179.61	190.05	+ 2.05	1.56
Tech Inc	738.03	777.86	+ 8.14	
Tech Acc	738.05	777.86	+ 8.14	
UK Plus Gbp Inc	109.88	115.95†	- 2.17	2.51
UK Blue Chip Acc	134.41	141.85	- 3.32	2.57
Uk Eqty Gp Inc	77.99	84.39	+ 3.52	1.44
UK Gwth Inc	69.53	73.58	- 0.12	1.40
World Pot Inc #	63.72	67.77	- 2.25	1.92
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Smlr Cos	7351.00	2468.00	+45.00	
ABWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 258 5888				
Recept Property #	108.40	115.30		5.50
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Acctg Income	101.87	108.09†	- 1.61	1.97
Income Dublin Inc	96.97	103.16	- 1.46	3.15
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01265 528 011				
Cntrpnt Del Fnns	141.99	141.30		
Foundtn Pnrd Pens	81.11	84.27		
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
American Sm Cos	391.10	415.80†	- 4.00	
Bond	130.20	136.80	+ 2.10	6.01
Bnt Smlr Cos	162.81	169.40	+ 1.60	1.48
Europe	388.60	412.30	+ 14.80	
Euro Smlr Cos	125.00	134.20	- 1.80	0.24
High Income #	69.55	73.99†	- 0.69	5.15
Income	401.42	427.00†	- 6.60	4.56
Japan	254.00	269.40	+ 1.10	
Latin American	54.19	57.65	- 0.30	
Pacific	51.83	55.14	+ 0.65	1.23
UK Smlr Cos	59.12	62.60	- 0.84	0.99
Japanese Sm Cos	426.70	458.20	+ 5.70	
Mngd Fd	243.10	257.80	- 2.10	2.84
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 488 0873				
Brit & Orient	411.16	434.60	- 1.20	0.03
Capital Gwth	160.50	175.10	+ 4.20	2.26
Wrldw Opps	228.10	242.40	+ 8.70	0.89
BARCLAYS FUNDS LTD				
Customer Help Desk 0181 522 4000				
Income Funds				
Cash	101.70	101.70	- 0.10	6.92
Cash Acc	136.60	136.60	- 0.10	6.92
Income #	690.10	725.50†	- 7.90	4.06
Income Builder #	79.23	83.31†	- 0.67	4.92
Balanced Funds				
Exempt	107.10	113.90	+ 0.10	1.29
500	497.90	535.40†	+ 0.90	1.92
General	400.90	430.00	- 2.30	1.33
Property	278.50	298.90	+ 0.90	6.09
Trustee	270.00	298.10	+ 2.10	1.55
Growth Funds - UK				
Capital	178.60	191.40	- 1.30	1.51
FTSE 100	130.50	138.50	+ 1.90	1.66
Smaller Cos	58.11	90.70†	- 0.60	3.40
Smaller Cos Acc	67.51	72.01	- 1.10	2.40
Growth Funds - Overseas				
America	231.00	244.10	- 3.36	
American Growth	154.00	163.10	- 7.00	
Japan	78.59	82.88	- 0.21	
Japan Acc	79.49	83.83	- 0.22	
Japan Smlr Sits	38.01	39.06	- 0.15	
Worldwide	206.60	219.90	- 2.30	0.69
Barclays Investment Portfolios				
Managed Income	51.73	53.53†	+ 0.76	6.15
Mgd Earth & Inc #	45.61	49.52†		5.69
Managed Growth	45.84	48.73†	- 0.35	0.62
Barclays Global Investors Funds				
Worldwide 0800 783 4987				
Income Funds				
Distribution #	124.50	125.10†	- 0.10	5.30
Equity Income #	163.60	174.70	- 1.50	4.15
Gilt & Fix Inc	65.97	68.24†	- 0.92	6.51
Int Fxd Inc	100.40	109.80	+ 1.70	2.43
Int Fxd Inc Acc	139.20	144.00	- 2.30	2.23
Growth Funds - UK				
UK Growth	519.90	553.90†	+ 0.70	1.31
UK Growth Acc	526.10	559.70	+ 0.70	1.31
Growth & Inc	529.90	562.70	- 0.30	1.30
Growth & Inc Acc	1153	1226	- 1.00	1.30
Growth Funds - Overseas				
Euro Growth	260.70	275.90†	- 3.50	0.54
Euro Growth Acc	297.10	300.00	- 3.00	0.54
Far Eastern Gwth	74.00	80.79	- 0.33	1.00
Far East Gth Acc	136.10	137.50	- 0.60	1.65
Continental Services Quotes 0800 968282				
EZ Sel Mkt Gth	68.61	68.121	- 1.41	
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	191.80	202.50	- 2.30	
Amer Smlr Cos	132.70	141.10	- 0.60	
Eastern	108.70	117.80		0.30
Equity Income #	114.70	122.60†	- 2.20	3.60
European Growth	579.70	615.50	- 10.80	0.40
Europe Select	445.90	479.10	- 4.80	0.50
German Growth	167.30	165.60	- 0.10	0.56
Global Bond	75.48	82.57	- 1.13	5.10
Global Growth	165.60	191.00	- 4.90	0.10
Japan Growth	103.20	109.10	- 0.10	
Japan Sunrise	77.21	81.59	- 0.43	
Korea Trust	21.25	23.12	- 0.24	
Portfolio	168.90	179.80†	- 2.60	1.00
-do- Accum	300.30	351.70	- 5.80	1.00
UK Growth	130.60	139.90	- 1.70	1.20
Uk Smaller Cos	121.60	132.60	- 1.30	0.70
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 628 3300				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	94.86	100.90†	- 1.80	
Special Opnrs Inc	31.10	33.09†	- 2.73	
BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD				
0141 223 6029				
Balanced Growth	178.55	185.99	- 3.42	0.82
-do- Accum	211.89	220.77	- 4.05	0.82
Smaller Cos	172.48	179.67	- 1.97	0.65
-do- Accum	195.92	204.00	- 2.23	0.00
Higher Yield #	71.13	74.10	- 0.17	3.56
-do- Accum #	118.60	123.75	- 0.35	3.56
American Gth Inc	142.55	149.49†	- 0.79	
European Growth	231.76	240.00	- 2.25	0.05
-do- Accum	238.21	246.05	- 2.31	0.05
Mngd Pfolio Inc	59.53	62.01	- 0.00	1.50
-do- Accum	62.60	65.29	- 0.00	1.50
Int Spec Opps	100.40	203.56	- 2.45	
Pacific Gth	76.95	80.17	- 0.74	1.24
UK Gilt Inc #	121.20	126.25	- 0.77	2.55
-do- Accum #	136.61	142.31	- 0.64	2.50
Japan	34.16	36.70†	- 0.10	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	115.67	119.87†	+ 1.82	6.68
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 488 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	86.70	87.56	- 0.72	5.11
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5860				
Emntor	324.48	336.30	- 1.80	1.53
UK Growth	363.60	377.70†	- 1.50	1.78
UK Income	195.70	206.00	- 0.20	3.50
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 822 100				
Can Gen Dlrs	264.40	280.28†	- 4.70	1.21
-do- Income Dlrs	157.10	166.50	- 1.90	2.97
-do- Accum	535.90	567.90	- 6.60	2.97
Gilt & Fixd Int	46.51	49.67†	+ 0.70	4.40
Growth Units	321.10	343.30†	- 5.00	1.69
Bond	199.30	209.60†	- 3.00	4.80
Intl Growth	220.70	235.00	- 5.00	0.14
North American	313.20	332.70†	- 5.10	
Far East	119.50	128.10	+ 2.30	1.60
UK Smaller Cos	248.80	266.10	+ 5.80	1.09
European	134.30	132.50	- 4.90	0.48
Japanese Growth	25.79	27.33	- 0.15	
High Income	273.50	292.40	- 2.60	2.90
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0181 831 7403 Enq 0181 831 7433 Dlg 0181 831 7495				
American & Gen	290.80	297.10	- 3.50	
European Inc	134.40	142.70†	- 0.00	
Smaller Cos (4-1)	104.20	110.00†	+ 2.30	2.08
Growth	657.60	699.60†	- 9.60	1.94
Income & Growth #	535.10	569.30†	- 11.70	4.07
-do- Accum #	870.30	925.90	- 19.10	4.07
Japan & Gen	42.75	45.18	+ 0.58	
Hallmark Gwth	1466.00	1528.00	- 24.50	1.44
-do- Accum	1866.00	1935.00	- 31.50	1.44
Special Sits	151.90	161.60	- 1.40	1.62
High Yield	1764.00	1819.00	- 36.00	4.11
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 588 0798				
Cazenove Portfolio	112.36	119.56	- 1.36	3.37
American Portfolio	164.99	174.00	- 0.36	0.47
European Portfolio	192.13	204.60	- 0.80	0.30
High Income	58.22	61.34†	+ 0.65	6.16
Japanese Portfolio	48.21	42.62†	- 0.53	
Pacific Portfolio	75.69	81.61	- 0.17	1.61
UK Equity	110.59	117.71	- 2.08	2.56
UK Equity & 00	69.60	74.02	- 0.07	5.11
UK Smlr Cos	50.49	53.96†	- 0.34	2.17
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	964.53	979.11	+ 18.23	3.54
Inv Fd Acc	1021.70	1037.22	+ 17.28	
Fixd Int Sec Inc	170.58	171.26	+ 0.02	7.47
Fxd Int Sec Acc	192.96	193.74	- 0.60	
CIM UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 203 5000				
Equity Dlrs	1224.00	1247.90†	+ 5.00	3.09
CBF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	945.07	999.35	+ 16.38	3.00
Investment Acc	4663.60	4733.57	+ 80.19	
Fixed Int Inc	140.47	141.53	+ 0.25	7.81
Fixed Int Acc	296.14	297.32	+ 0.53	
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0117 936 8000				
CF Intl Acc	108.97	114.54	+ 0.70	5.40
Cite Pfic Fd	29.95	31.34	+ 1.30	
Acorn Ethical Tst	177.93	189.70	+ 1.10	1.26
City Fin Assets	82.87	87.02	+ 1.92	3.26
City Fin Inc	79.36	84.43	- 3.36	
Fusec Hrtg Cap	358.39	381.27	+13.48	2.39
Buckler Yield Gth	139.14	148.12		
Utilities Fd	95.38	97.77	+ 1.62	2.87
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Advice: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	30.03	31.86	- 1.25	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGMT LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	96.82	103.00	- 1.80	
Dragon Growth	34.12	36.49	+ 0.45	2.32
Equity High Inc #	114.31	121.02†	- 2.17	4.31
-do- Accum #	177.19	187.50	- 3.36	4.31
Euro Income Inc	30.41	32.66	+ 0.42	5.22
Euro Income Acc	36.69	39.85	+ 0.51	5.22
European Gwth	91.00	97.25	- 5.01	0.23
Evergreen	31.76	33.96	- 0.77	0.17
General Equity	137.04	138.30	- 3.70	2.42
Japan Growth	29.96	31.23	- 0.15	
Pacific Gwth	82.42	87.21	- 1.20	1.89
Pvd Smr Cos Inc	39.41	41.70	+ 0.82	1.90
-do- Accum	42.01	45.08	+ 0.87	1.90
Retirement Inc #	32.53	34.61	- 0.61	5.10
Special Sits	56.81	61.60	- 0.14	0.94
UK & Overseas	67.51	71.43	- 1.44	0.89
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	79.48	82.79†	- 1.19	3.37
Capital	97.68	101.74†	- 2.08	1.91
High Income	59.01	61.49†	- 0.71	6.20
Top 50	73.44	76.50†	- 2.20	1.60
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Extra Inc	220.53	229.74	- 2.97	4.51
Long Gilt	97.37	99.72	+ 1.27	4.57
Monthly Inc Plus	64.26	67.57	+ 0.70	6.63
-do- Accum	61.87	65.29	+ 0.99	6.63
Preference Share	65.41	69.18	+ 0.84	5.54
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	173.17	180.40	- 2.74	5.34
Managed Fund	85.09	88.64	- 0.54	2.79
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	45.31	47.20	- 1.60	1.24
-do- Accum	54.64	56.92	+ 1.30	1.34
UK & General	119.50	124.28	- 0.37	2.24
-do- Accum	180.65	187.57	- 0.49	2.24
UK Growth	227.94	247.88	- 3.63	1.42
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	331.05	345.69	- 5.66	
Far Eastern Gth	71.79	74.79	+ 0.08	0.45
Global Bond	74.91	78.01	- 1.44	4.91
Japan Growth	70.69	73.64	- 0.00	
North Amer Gwth	306.46	319.26	- 3.47	
Oversea Growth	39.29	41.35	- 0.24	1.58
Worldwide Growth	81.45	84.85	- 1.46	
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	93.70	93.70	+ 0.10	6.67
Homebuyer Fund	96.16	102.31	- 2.62	2.25
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 588 0808				
Consistent UT	43.69	46.63†	+ 0.93	2.83
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	191.30	203.50	- 3.90	2.01
Uk Eqty Inc	83.33	88.65†	- 1.49	3.75
European Growth	106.90	113.30	- 3.20	0.10
UK Spec Sits	214.60	228.30	+ 0.90	1.20
CREDIT SUISSE ASSET MGMT FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 689 370				
Eurocope Inc	93.60	99.42†	- 3.98	
Fellowship Tst	117.00	125.20	- 2.40	
Income #	333.30	354.50	- 3.20	3.60
-do- Accum #	934.36	993.50	- 0.10	3.77
Smaller Cos	226.70	241.10	- 0.50	0.49
-do- Accum	784.30	832.48	- 0.60	0.49
Gilt Portfolio	115.33	122.60†	- 1.00	1.24
Mthly Inc Port #	98.52	104.80†	- 1.00	3.72
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 478 1634				
Global Sm Cos	208.75	208.60	+ 1.41	4.48
Uk Small Cos	1501.40	1550.60	+ 3.40	5.70
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 0870				
Disc Inc	769.60	771.70	- 2.70	2.79
DRESDNER RCM FUNDS (UK) LTD				
Dealing: 0171 475 7354 Admin/Vol: 0870 601 0117				
Amer Smlr Cos	103.84	105.57	- 5.45	
Bond Income	113.97	118.13†	+ 1.44	6.26
European	268.63	287.05	- 5.30	
European Pfio	123.09	130.94	- 2.71	0.60
European Special	206.12	219.27	- 1.94	
Gilt Fixd	137.07	144.61†	+ 2.50	5.86
Global Fdy Inc	131.21	139.45†	- 3.24	1.20
High Yield #	192.14	204.40	- 2.20	4.84
Japan	131.20	145.95	- 7.18	
Japanese Special	116.41	123.84	- 2.60	
Money Market	100.38	106.38	+ 0.11	6.40
North American	148.44	157.07	- 2.50	
Smaller Cos	140.00	150.01†	- 1.29	1.10
Tomorrows Co Ex	1157.00	1171.60	- 31.00	0.13
UK Index Inc	412.89	414.50	- 7.97	2.91
Europe Bd	40.65	42.38	+ 0.92	6.46
Emergt	850.12	885.27†	- 5.39	2.02
Global Eat Mkts	42.60	44.80	- 1.32	0.83
Little Dragons	47.19	49.41	+ 1.30	
Oriental Income #	21.41	28.70	- 0.32	4.57
Preference	166.64	173.44	+ 1.53	6.63
Tiger	126.39	134.30	- 0.74	
UK Growth	013.90	851.37	- 2.48	1.51
UK Mid-Cap	431.97	453.37	+13.34	1.34
UK Smlr Cos	123.91	129.74	+ 1.70	0.01
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 526				
Eurocpe	87.44	92.42	- 3.78	
Financial	66.82	71.00	- 3.12	1.41
UK Growth #	355.50	388.30†	- 1.30	1.93
UK Income #	225.90	240.00	- 0.80	3.54
Latin American	13.84	14.71	- 3.51	
Mgd Gwth Port	100.60	105.10	- 1.60	0.67
Pacific	44.30	47.07	- 0.74	
Prpl High Inc	27.00	29.55	+ 0.26	6.67
Tokyo	123.90	130.90	- 0.20	
UK Smaller Cos	258.70	275.90	- 5.10	1.27
Japan Sm Cos	308.90	328.10	- 0.40	
Nth Amer	354.90	386.80	- 16.30	
For Ely Plans see Scrips				
ENDEAVOUR FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7281				
Endeavour Fd	747.10	262.90	- 3.90	0.91
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01268 431 400				
Eurocpn	132.67	139.65	- 1.42	1.79
Ethical Tst	52.48	55.24	+ 0.77	1.14
Far Eastern	170.90	179.79	- 1.21	2.53
High Income	170.69	179.67	- 2.96	4.10
Uk Index Trckng	65.11	68.54†	- 1.06	2.47
Nth Growth	132.27	139.71	- 0.80	1.69
North American	177.74	187.09†	+ 0.02	1.64
Pacifcan	177.59	180.94	- 1.84	2.50
Smaller Cos	69.84	72.67	- 0.41	2.38
Special Sits	87.14	91.73†	- 2.60	2.25
Tst of Inv Trst	238.22	250.13†	- 1.99	1.91
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	145.50	154.46	- 3.21	
Fd of Inv Trst	57.33	60.03		
High Income #	40.72	51.66	- 0.18	6.95
Nam & Cl Dogs	53.69	57.10†	- 0.05	
Zero Preference	50.52	54.03	- 0.20	
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 724 578				
Family Accnt Tst	122.50	130.30	- 1.30	2.01
Charities Eth	340.50	362.20	- 1.50	2.53
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Dealing: Private Clients: 0800 414 161				
Gwth Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		7.00
Bond Funds				
Intl Bond ‡	36.83		+ 0.43	4.71
Income Funds				
High Income ‡	32.61		+ 0.17	4.82
Income Plus #	171.20		- 1.70	4.45
Monthlydlr Gwth #	59.98		- 0.21	5.35
Equity Funds				
ASEAN ‡	14.43		+ 0.29	
America ‡	452.00		- 6.90	
Amer Spec Sits ‡	203.50		- 0.60	
European ‡	315.90		- 4.30	0.34
European Opps ‡	123.70		- 4.00	0.48
Global Prv ‡	16.80		- 1.24	0.23
UK Growth ‡	153.60		- 1.10	1.27
Growth & Inc #	227.10		- 1.10	3.50
Intl PEP ‡	90.13		- 0.50	1.15
Japan Spec Sits ‡	64.70		+ 0.53	
Japan ‡	150.80			
Managed Intl ‡	224.90		- 1.48	0.70
Mnytrckldlr Plus	74.86	74.66	- 0.73	0.05

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Recovery ‡	60.960		- 1.00	3.62
South E Asia ‡	107.30		+ 2.50	1.95
Special Sits ‡	988.10		- 0.70	1.27
Specialified Funds				
Cash Account Units	127.54	127.54	+ 0.13	7.00
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	159.00	160.60†	+ 2.50	2.07
Fincnry Pf Inc #	115.89	116.60†	+ 1.20	5.48
Cap Pfolio	189.10	190.50	- 3.00	0.05
General Opnt	174.00	176.70	- 2.00	3.40
Growth Inc	46.92	47.54	- 0.34	0.87
Private Portfolio	602.70	607.60†	+15.00	0.93
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Dlg 01277 680 300 Admin

ASSESSORS ASSESSED 63

When the Inland Revenue broke its own rules

WEEKEND MONEY

INVESTORS DIVIDED 61

As the market falls is cash a better option?

Not quite taking the soft option

As fears of a global depression grow, investors are looking around for ways to mitigate their losses. **Gavin Lumsden** explains the use of put and call options

Investors who have done well out of the stock market in the 1990s have watched in horror as shares have nosedived in recent weeks.

With some gloomy pundits predicting further savage falls as we enter a 1930s-style Depression, many scared investors are now wondering whether they should pull out of the stock market altogether.

However, such a drastic step is unlikely to be worthwhile as shares nearly always provide the best long-term financial returns.

Besides, timing your exit and re-entry is notoriously difficult according to market experts. This means investors who flee when times are rough almost always fail to return in time when the market recovers. All too often they end up making the most basic investment mistake of all — selling at the bottom of the market when shares are cheap and buying at the top when they have become expensive again.

Fortunately, for investors who are perplexed by the should-I-stay-or-should-I-go? dilemma, there is a form of insurance that will allow them to stay invested while protecting them against further slides in the market.

Investors who are worried about how their shares may perform in the future can lock in some of the gains they have already made by buying so-called equity options.

Hundreds of millions of pounds worth of equity options are traded each year at the London International Futures and Options Exchange (Liffe) by investors seeking to defend their holdings. Liffe is now hoping to extend the options habit to many more private investors. However, newcomers need to take great care as reckless buying of options can lose you more money than you can ever hope to save.

Very simply, an option is a financial instrument that gives its holder the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell something at a fixed (strike) price at some point in the future (usually in three months' time).

Equity options fall into two basic categories: call options which give investors the right to buy shares at a fixed price in the future and put options which confer the right to sell shares at an agreed price in the future. Each option contract covers 1,000 shares and can be bought from a broker who will charge around 2 per cent dealing commission.

Investors can currently buy options on 73 blue chip shares as well as the FTSE 100 index. Liffe is planning to expand the range when it abandons its traditional "open-cry" trading and moves to electronic trading in November.

> Reckless buying can lose more than you are trying to save

With stock markets so unstable, put options have been much in demand recently as investors have sought to set a limit to their losses. For example, shareholders in Lloyds TSB, who have seen their shares drop from over £8.00 to £6.90, could buy a put option that would enable them to sell the share at £6.50 in December. Useful protection if the share price continues to slide, *less useful if it rises.*

In this respect, buying an option is no different from taking out insurance on your home or car. If something bad happens you will be glad of the cover. If nothing occurs the premium has simply been the price for your peace of mind.

Many investors take fright when they learn options are part of a complex group of financial instruments known as derivatives. These have inspired fear and loathing among investors since 1995 when Nick Leeson broke Barings Bank with his wild betting on the Japanese stock market.

However, options are fundamentally different from the futures used by Mr Leeson. Futures are far more risky than options because they oblige investors to stick to their deal no matter what happens in the market. By contrast, if the market turns against option holders, they can simply decide not to buy or sell the shares. Nick Bramley of Liffe says: "The most they can lose is their premium, *the price of the option.*"

In addition to being a good form of insurance, Mr Bramley says there are two other reasons investors should consider options. Because they are always cheaper than the shares they are linked to, typically about 5 per cent of a share's value, they can be an efficient way of gaining exposure to market growth.

For example, if you think shares in Lloyds TSB will rise, you could buy a call option to buy them at £8.00. If they rise further you have a bargain. If they do not you simply avoid the scramble.

Call options are also a good way of generating income on your share portfolio. For example, the Lloyds TSB investor with a £6.90 share might have ruled out the chance of a recovery in the next few months. However, he could still make some money by selling a call option to another investor who thought differently and wanted the chance to buy the share in the future. If the first investor is right and the shares go nowhere he still makes a 5 per cent profit. If wrong, he makes 110p as the shares reach £8.00 but loses any gain over this.

Unfortunately, as with all forms of insurance, equity options become more expensive just when the need for their protection is greatest. Options offer protection against sudden falls and rises in share prices. With stock markets more volatile now than ever before, there has been plenty to protect against and the price of options has rocketed.

For example, three months ago, with the FTSE 100 near 6,000, it would have cost an investor with £1,000 invested in the market's leading index just £25 to buy a put option enabling him to sell at 5,000. With the FTSE 100 now a lot nearer 5,000 after the recent market falls, that option has obviously become a lot more valuable. Today it could cost the same investor £100. Similarly, options on BT shares have doubled while those for HSBC, the bank group hit by the Asian crisis, have soared 13 times.

Recently the escalating expense of options has forced Legal & General and Royal SunAlliance to withdraw "protected" funds that aim to minimise investors' losses.

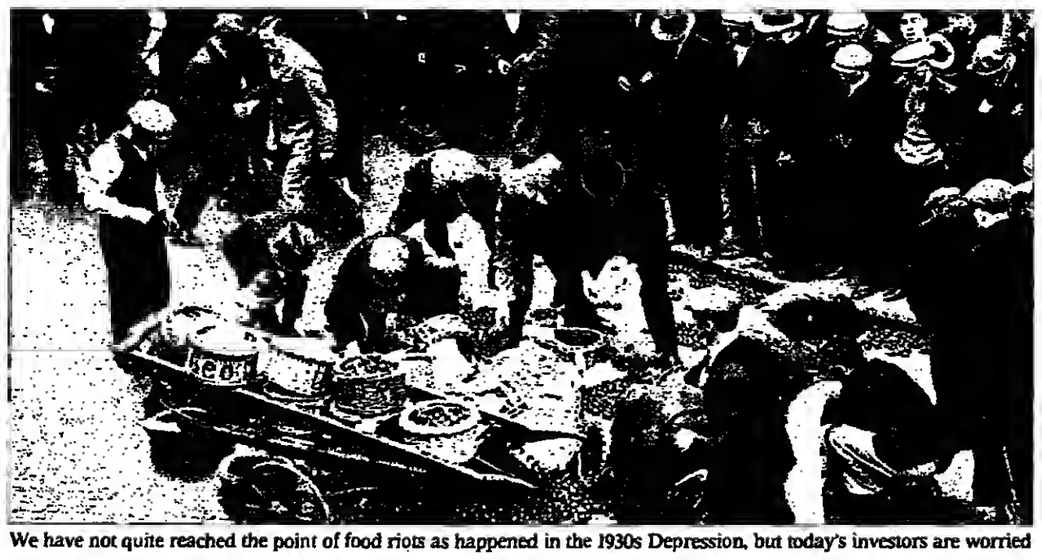
All this might seem a bit depressing given the current woes of the market. However, investors can take heart from the fact that with options, as with all assets, the early bird can get the juiciest worms. Options bought at the right time can rise greatly in value which is why 95 per cent of them are sold before their expiry date.

Three main things dictate an option's price: the price of the share, the time to expiry and volatility in the market.

For example, if the share price exceeds a call option's strike price by 20p the option will have an intrinsic value of 20p. This is because the option gives investors the right to buy the share at a 20p discount. It follows from this that a put option, which gives the right to sell the share, will only have an intrinsic value of 20p if the share price is *below* the option's strike price.

The longer the option has to go before it expires, the greater its time value will be. This is because there will be more time for the share price to move in the right direction and for the option to be exercised. This could add 10p-20p to the above example. As we have already seen stock market turbulence will push the option price up further.

☐ *Liffe is holding a series of seminars starting in Leeds today. For more information ring 0171 379 2087.*



We have not quite reached the point of food riots as happened in the 1930s Depression, but today's investors are worried

Sleeping easy while world markets fall

Ian Campbell, 60, a former Unilever manager from Pitlochry, Perthshire, is a good example of how cautious investors with large portfolios can take advantage of options.

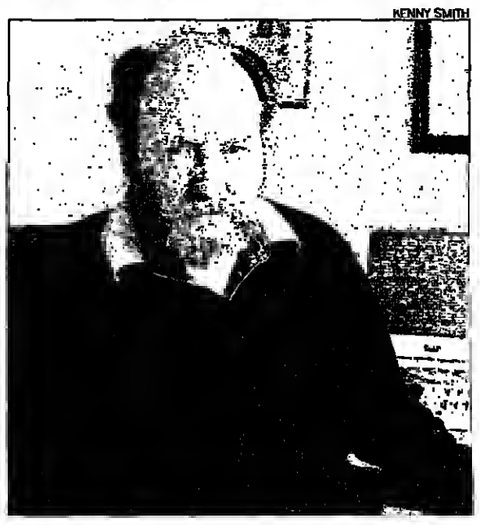
Mr Campbell, pictured below, first dipped his toe into options waters three years ago when he realised they were an efficient use of his money. He particularly liked the fact that he could buy a call option — which gave him the right to buy a share at a fixed price in the future — at a fraction of the real cost of the share. If the strike price turned out to be good value he would exercise the option and buy the shares. *In the meantime he could put his money on deposit* where it could earn interest. If he decided not to buy the shares the interest would partly compensate for the cost of the option. If he did exercise the option it was a welcome bonus in addition to getting cheap shares.

Mr Campbell, who plans to live off his portfolio of 30, mostly blue chip, shares when he retires, soon woke up to the protection that equity options can offer. His next step was to start writing call options on shares he did not expect to do well in the next few months.

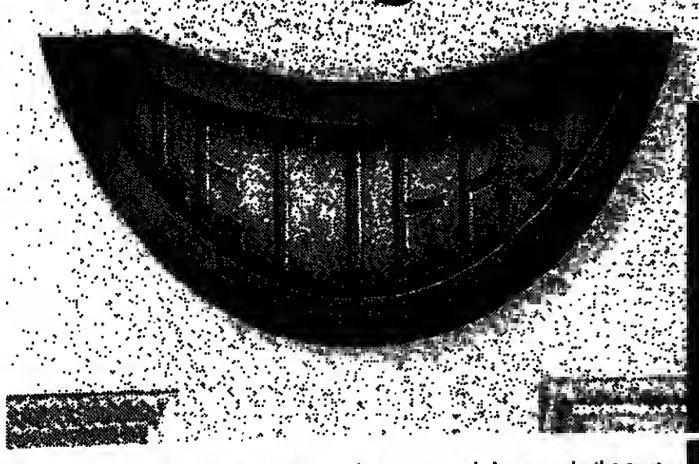
He now works part time as a commodities consultant advising confectioners on which crops to buy, and admits he has made mistakes which have cost him money, but insists he is not a speculator.

"I really am quite a cautious investor. If I had done nothing I expect my portfolio would have been higher. On the other hand I have been able to sleep at night aware that if the market falls I have been protected."

KENNY SMITH



We deliver great savings accounts.



60 Direct UP TO 7·8%* GROSS P.A.

Access Direct UP TO 7·6%* GROSS P.A.

Alliance & Leicester's new direct postal accounts can help you make the most of your money.

If you're looking for high interest, 60 Direct offers up to 7.8% gross p.a. for just 60 days' notice on balances of £100,000 and over.

For access to your money with no notice, there's the Access Direct account offering up to 7.6% gross p.a. on balances of £100,000 plus. Make less than 3 withdrawals from your Access Direct account in a year and we'll reward you with a bonus of 0.5% gross p.a.

The minimum investment for both accounts is £5,000 and we will welcome you with an interest premium of 0.5% gross p.a. which you will earn on all balances for the first twelve months. Rates shown include the interest premium and bonus where applicable. All transactions are made from the comfort of your own home.

So, for a great savings account, call Alliance & Leicester today on 0845 60 888 60 and ask for a free information pack.

Call now for your free information pack
0845 60 888 60

Common sense in a crazy world

Alliance Leicester

http://www.alliance-leicester.co.uk

The rates shown are only available on balances over £100,000 or more and are correct at 17.8.98. Rates are variable. All rates include a 0.5% gross p.a. variable interest premium payable for the first 12 months. Annual rates for Access Direct also include a 0.5% gross p.a. bonus. This bonus is payable annually providing no more than 2 withdrawals are made per year. A 0.5% gross p.a. bonus if payable, will be due annually on the anniversary of the account opening. Minimum investment for both accounts is £5,000. Maximum investment per individual is £250,000. The minimum deposit or withdrawals for Access Direct is £100 and for 60 Direct £250. Please ensure that you read this in conjunction with the account terms and conditions. The gross rates do not take into account deduction of Income Tax. Interest will be payable net of Income Tax at the rate determined by the Inland Revenue, from time to time, *, subject to the required registration, gross. Tax may be reclaimed from the Inland Revenue where the amount deducted exceeds your liability to tax. Similarly, if you are liable to higher rate tax additional Income Tax may be payable to the Inland Revenue. For security and training purposes telephone calls between you and Alliance & Leicester plc or its subsidiaries may be recorded/monitored. Alliance & Leicester plc, Registered Office: 49 Park Lane, London W1Y 4EQ. Company No. 3263713. Registered in England. Authorised as a bank pursuant to the Banking Act 1987. Member of the British Bankers Association.

EUROPEAN PEP

The PEP that beats 98%* of the competition.

Don't miss this outstanding opportunity

1% discount if you invest by 25th September 1998.

Outperforming over 98%* of all 539 unit trust PEPs over the last five years makes the Scottish Widows European PEP a star performer in any language. It offers superb potential to make your money grow. So if you haven't yet taken up your final PEP allowance, take a trip to Europe now with a name you can trust.

Consistent Performance - The Trust in which the PEP invests has been 'AAA' rated in 6 out of the last 7 years**.

Flexible - Easy access to your savings.

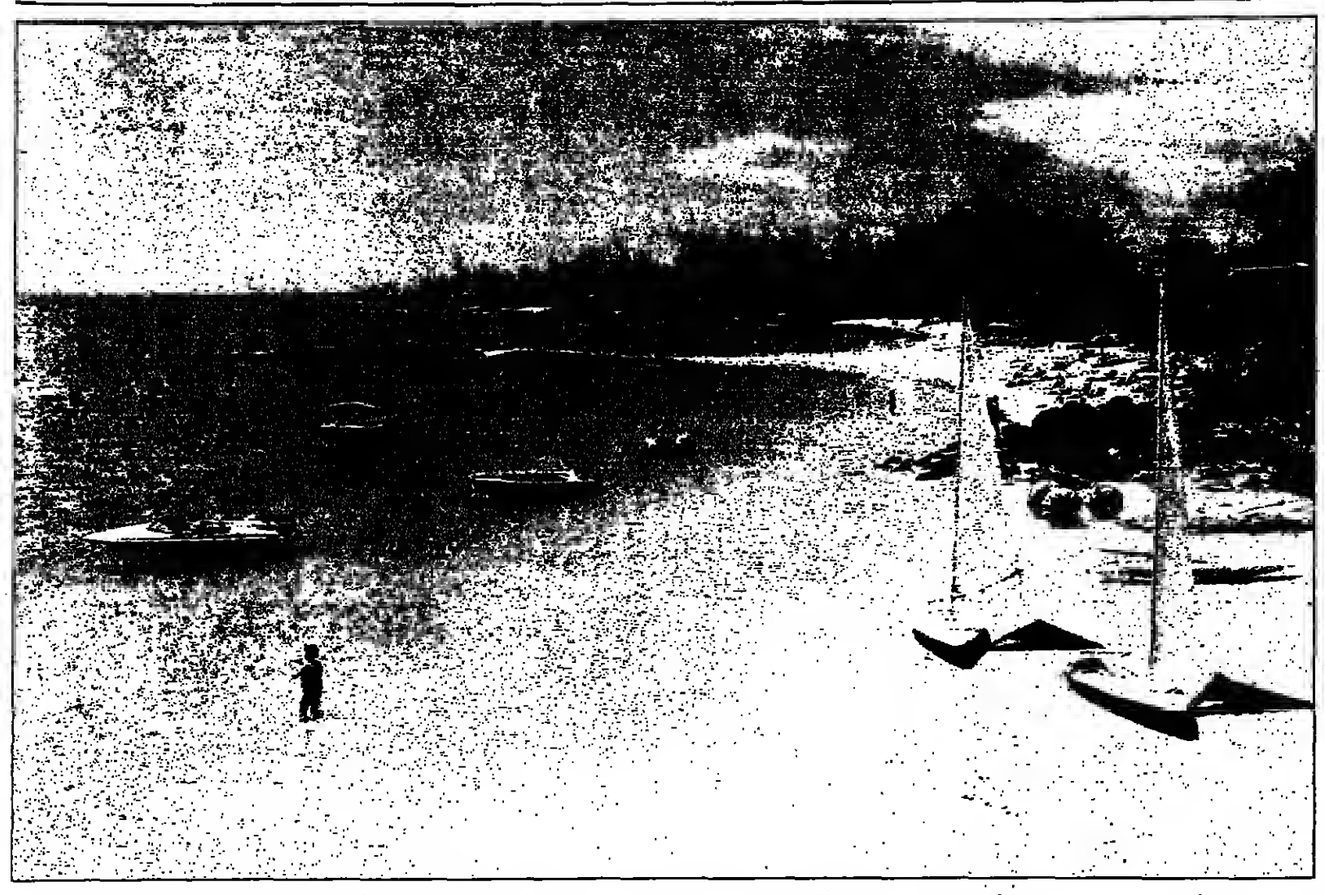
Tax advantages - Currently free from UK Income and Capital Gains Tax.

Return your application by 25th September 1998 to receive a 1%# discount. If you're looking for a PEP, go for a genuine star performer. Call now for full details.

Don't Delay!
For a priority application form call now on
0345 6789 10
and quote ref no. 39IBB1

SCOTTISH WIDOWS
www.scottishwidows.co.uk

* Source: Micropal 2.8.93-3.8.98, lump sum, offer to bid prices, gross income reinvested. ** Source: Standard & Poor's Fund Research 1992-1998. # Applies to new plans effected by 25th September 1998. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of units and the income from them can go down as well as up and is not guaranteed. The value of the tax advantages of a PEP depends on personal circumstances. Where applicable we will recover any overseas tax wherever it is possible and practical to do so. Exchange rate changes may cause the value of any overseas investments to go down as well as up. The tax position of PEPs will change in April 1999. For your protection calls may be recorded or monitored. Issued by Scottish Widows Investment Management Limited. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO.



Sun, sand, and a record stock market

A year ago, if you had packed your bags and sat on the beach in Mauritius, you could have seen your investments shoot up. The dream holiday destination is one of just four stock markets across the world that have hit record highs as the rest have plummeted.

Share prices on Mauritius's fledgeling exchange are up by 25 per cent this year, boosted by rapidly expanding tourism and the growth of the island as an offshore banking centre for Africa.

Even after soaring ahead, the stock market is on a relatively low "price/earnings" ratio of just 11 compared with the 25-plus figure for most Western stock markets.

The island's boom gives some comfort to emerging markets specialist Orbitex Investments, which runs a Russia/Eastern Europe fund as well as an Africa fund.

Chief investment officer Robin Geffen admits the last few weeks have been "hellish" but still keeps faith with the emerging markets story.

"Even when markets are crashing, a globally diversified portfolio of emerging market shares can reduce risk.

"The Middle East and Africa index is down 24.9 per cent this year, but strip out Egypt and South Africa and the picture looks a good deal better," he said.

Mauritius shares its crisis protection factor 20 with Ivory Coast, Botswana and, surprisingly, former Yugoslavian republic Slovenia, as the only markets still up when compared on a year-on-year basis.

"The secret is the level of foreign ownership. These markets on average have less than 2 per cent of their shares owned abroad so they are insulated from the likes of Soros and the big hedge funds," said Mr Geffen.

But it could be many years before these markets are a realistic proposition for small investors. Investor protection is in its infancy, market volatility is high and political risk levels are unacceptable for most investors.

PATRICK COLLINSON

Malaise grips the emerging economies

Caroline Merrell on the problems facing investors in fledgeling markets

The myth of the Malaysian economic miracle was finally entirely exploded earlier this month when the Government, under the eccentric leadership of Mahathir Mohamad, announced capital controls in a bid to reflate the burnt-out economy.

The stock market immediately reacted with a 60 per cent rise, but UK investors with funds that hold stock in the region will not be able to benefit from the increase because at the moment it is impossible to exchange assets denominated in the local currency, the ringgit, into sterling. The currency controls could be in force for as long as 12 months, which leaves UK investors holding funds where a proportion of the stock is effectively illiquid.

Many fund managers with trusts in the region immediately suspended trading in any funds that had more than 5 per cent in Malaysia. The fund managers that acted included Fidelity, Barings and HSBC. Trusts where the proportion of Malaysian investment was less than 5 per cent continued trading. Fund managers took the view that the cash levels within the trusts were enough to counteract the illiquidity of the investments.

However, investment managers are concerned that the funds with any exposure to Malaysia will have to be repriced to reflect the value of the assets. The Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro), the watchdog, this week met fund managers to find "a common way forward" over pricing.

The crisis afflicting Malaysia is the most extreme example of the malaise affecting most of the emerging markets of the world. Currency devaluations in Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and more recently Russia have had a catastrophic effect on the values of many Far Eastern and emerging markets funds.

Any investor who put money in such a trust will now be looking at huge losses. Many commentators believe some markets are in such a state that it will take them between five and 10 years to recover. Others believe that there is still some value in the emerging markets closer to home, like Greece and Israel.

For instance, over a three-month time period, the average global emerging market fund has fallen by 35 per cent, while the worst affected fund was the Framlington Emerging Markets fund, which has fallen by more than 40 per cent. The longer-term figures are equally as poor. Emerging market unit trusts, on average, have fallen by 36 per cent over a five-year period.

In the investment trust sector, the falls have been even more catastrophic, as many of the trusts are linked to a single emerging market. On average, over a three-month period, emerging market investment trusts have fallen by 42 per cent, while over five years, the value of the trusts have fallen by on average 51 per cent.

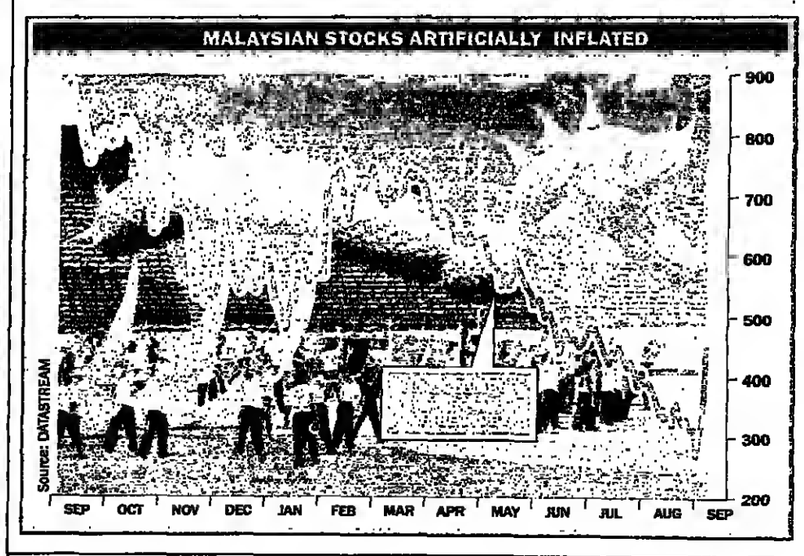
Even the funds run by Mark Mobius, the emerging market guru from Templeton Investment Management have suffered large falls. For example, over three months the Templeton Emerging Markets fund has fallen by 41 per cent, while over five years it has fallen by just 39 per cent.

Emerging market fund managers are divided on the future prospects for the markets. Many believe that in some countries the situation could get worse before it gets better. Nancy Curtain, from Barings, divides the markets into the good, the bad and the ugly. The former are those countries that are prepared to instigate tough economic measures to try to counteract recession. "The virtuous are those that are prepared to raise interest rates to rein in domestic demand." South Africa, Mexico, India, Greece and Argentina are among those countries.

Ms Curtain said: "These changes are not equity friendly, they are in fact bond friendly." The bad markets she considers are those of Brazil and Hong Kong, where Government's have intervened to maintain economic or market stability, while the truly ugly markets she considers are Malaysia and Russia. Of the former she said: "What the Government is doing in introducing capital controls makes absolutely no sense."

Chris Palmer, a manager at Gartmore, warned against anyone investing in the bombed-out markets of Asia and the Far East, in the assumption that things could get no worse. He said: "It really depends on investors' attitude to risk. It has got to be a long-term proposition." He believes there are a few investment opportunities among the carnage. Greece is where he believes there could be some good returns, other markets he favours include Taiwan and Korea.

Some emerging markets may take ten years to recover



Past performance is not a guide to the future. The value of investments and any income from them can go down as well as up. Tax concessions are not guaranteed, their value will depend on individual circumstances. A dilution levy may be applied by the Investment Fund if required for the purpose of investor protection. It will not be possible to continue investment in a PEP after April 1999 when the Government will introduce Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs). Threadneedle Investment Services Limited. Authorised Corporate Director and Unit Trust Manager. Threadneedle Portfolio Services Limited, PEP Manager. Regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. Members of the Allied Dunbar and Threadneedle marketing group.

Hot PEPs

Threadneedle investments

Beat the European index

If you want to tap the huge potential of continental Europe look no further.

Here's a tax-free investment opportunity that has consistently outperformed the European index – the Threadneedle European Select Growth PEP.

184% Over the past five years the fund has produced almost 70% more growth than the European index, rising by a staggering 184%.

Strong European Performance

	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years
	Quartile Rank				
Threadneedle Euro Select Growth	1 26%	1 58%	1 112%	1 137%	1 184%
Index	23%	49%	71%	90%	114%
Sector Average	16%	37%	63%	75%	105%

*Source: Micropal. Offer to bid (current charges), gross income reinvested. performance of PEP qualifying funds in the European Equity Growth Sector to 1/9/98. The index is the Micropal FT S&P World Europe – excluding UK.
† Rating by Standard & Poor's Fund Research

And it's not just the index it's beaten. This 'AA' – rated† fund has also outperformed at least 75% of it's competitors over 1,2,3,4 and 5 years.*

If you'd like to know more about the PEP that has consistently beaten the index, talk to your financial adviser or phone

0500 600 555.

Quote ref: T12/9/98

Threadneedle investments

*Source: Standard & Poor's Micropal, UK Gilt sector, offer to bid, net income reinvested to 1/9/98. The price of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up, you may not get back as much as you invest. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. M&G do not offer advice or make any recommendations regarding investment – we only promote the packaged products and services of the M&G marketing group. Issued by M&G Securities Limited (Regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority). Registered Address: 3 Minster Court, Great Tower Street, London EC3R 7XH. Registered No: 90776.

1,1,1,1

Quartile ranking of M&G Gilt & Fixed Interest Fund over 1, 2, 3 and 5 years

For more details call us on 0800 210 204 M&G

هكذا من الأصل

Don't be slow out of the blocks — there are just eighteen days left to get your return form back if you want the Inland Revenue to calculate your tax bill

Don't be beaten by tax

Sarah Williams explains the best way to tackle your self-assessment forms

Filling in your tax return can be confusing even when everything goes smoothly. But problems escalate when the information you get from the Inland Revenue is misleading. Hector has been filling our small screens telling us all to get our tax returns sent in within the next four weeks if we want the Revenue to work out our tax bills for us. If you don'T the job lands fairly and squarely in your lap, or in your bank account if you are going to pay an adviser to do it for you.

It seems a simple straightforward message from the tax people, does't it? The trouble is that it is *not* precise enough. You have to get your tax return in by September 30 if you want to be certain that your tax bill will be worked out for you in time for you to pay it on January 31.

So saying "four weeks" is wrong. It is either encouraging you to send in your tax return earlier than is required. Or, worse still, it means you might miss the date, given that the advertisement has been running on the television after September 2 (four weeks before the deadline).

The Inland Revenue says in its defence that while he is speaking Hector holds up a sign that says September 30. The Revenue also says that television advertisements are booked on a weekly slot, so September 6 was the last day it was seen. Despite the confusion, you still have to meet the September 30 deadline if you want to guarantee that your tax bill will be worked out for you.

If your form arrives in the first couple of days of October your tax office will still do its best to work it out for you without you incurring a penalty.

You will really have to get moving if you want to meet the real deadline. While it shouldn't take long to fill in the form, it may take quite a lot longer to get all the documents you need.

Your first step is to check what forms you have received from the Inland Revenue. You should have the basic eight-page booklet entitled Tax Return. You will probably also have received a *Tax Calculation Guide*, but because you are going to return your form before September 30, you do not need to fill this in. There should also be a big booklet — the *Tax Return Guide* — which tells you how to fill in your form.

Enclosed with your Tax Return may be one or more supplementary forms. These cover particular cases such as for employees, for the self-employed, for capital gains and so on. In all, there are nine different possible extra forms. Check which of the supplementary forms you need. If you are missing any, call the orderline 0645 000 404 (between 8am to 10pm) to ask for what you need. Next, chase up all your documents. Employees need to have forms P60 and possibly forms P11D, P9D and P45. Your employer should have given you your form P60 by May 31, and forms P11D or P9D by July 6. The P60 is a summary of what you were paid last tax year and how much tax has been deducted.

Taxable benefits and expenses should be entered on forms P11D or P9D. Which one you receive depends on how much you earn. If you left a job during the tax year you should have a P45. You may need to get that from your previous employer.

If you have received taxable benefits and expenses you should also have kept invoices or receipts to back up your claim for deductions for allowable expenses.

The self-employed should also have evidence to support the figures entered in the Tax Return. However, you do not need to attach your accounts to it. If your yearly sales are less than £15,000, you need to enter the amount of your sales and the amount of your expenses, plus the figure for profit. More sales than this and the information you have to enter will be much more detailed. If you have not yet worked out your business figures, you and your accountant will need to act fast so that you can put in the accurate information.

If you have received any investment income, you may need to enclose further information. A simple building society or bank account will produce interest which should be declared, and you will need to get certificates of interest from the society or bank.

Any shares you hold may have paid you a dividend and you should have received a dividend voucher with it. That needs to be tracked down and sent in with your form. The same applies to unit trusts. The general rule is that any income you have received or expenses you wish to claim needs to be documented. And you have just 12 working days to get it all together.

Once you have all your documents you can settle down to filling in the forms. Allow yourself a couple of hours to do this. Start with your supplementary pages and then turn to your Tax Return. It would probably be sensible to send in the form before the deadline to allow for postal delays, and to pay extra for guaranteed delivery the next day.

☐ *The first 50 readers to send their name and address to:* The Times, *Reader Offer, 58a Hatton Garden, London EC1N 8LX will receive a free copy of the book which normally retails for £7.99. Anyone who does not qualify for free copy will be offered the chance to buy it for £3.99 including post and packing.*

Penalised despite hitting the payment deadline

ALAN WELLER

Paying your tax bill in time should mean that you avoid all self-assessment penalties, but one accountant has discovered that even those who pay promptly may still find themselves penalised.

Peter Saxton, from Southfields in Southwest London, has been charged interest on his second payment of tax on account for 1997-98. He handed in his cheque at his tax office on the deadline date of July 31 and got a receipt. But he was later told the payment was late.

The amount involved is just 60p. But Mr Saxton sees the charge as typifying the "inefficiencies that are endemic in the system". He also points out that the taxman is disobeying his own rules. A payment of tax has arrived on time if the cheque is in the hands of the Inland Revenue by the due date. There is no need to submit the payment early to give the cheque time to clear by the deadline, although Mr Saxton was rebuked by a Revenue employee for failing to do so.

A Revenue spokeswoman conceded that if a payment was received on the deadline date, no interest on overdue tax should be charged. "Something has gone wrong in this case and we are looking into it," she said.

ANNE ASHWORTH

Investors find a shelter for funds through St Mark

Financial experts have exploited a loophole in the last Budget to give investors a rare chance to sink some of their money into a potentially lucrative, but low-risk, property tax shelter.

St Mark Homes, a new five-year enterprise investment scheme set up by a firm of North London builders, is causing a stir among the financial cognoscenti.

This is because EISs, which offer investors generous tax reliefs, were banned in the last Budget from backing property development.

Chancellor Gordon Brown ruled that shareholders could only get the EIS benefits of 20 per cent income tax relief and the ability to defer capital gains tax if they backed genuinely risky start-up companies.

Property development schemes that built and ran nursing and residential homes were banned because investors could always fall back on the value of the property if the business failed. This asset backing greatly reduced their risk.

However, although the Budget made it impossible for property developers to set up EISs, it left the door wide open for builders.

Mizen, a homebuilder based in Wembley, is the driving force behind St Mark Homes, which has won provisional approval from the Inland Revenue.

St Mark Homes intends to subcontract itself to property companies wishing to develop homes in the South East. It believes it will be attractive to developers as, unusually, it will wait for payment until three months after completion. In return, however, it will demand a 20 per cent margin over the cost of construction. Investors will share half of the profits with St Mark's management, although they will have priority over the first 4 per cent post-tax return on capital, equivalent to 20 per cent over five years.

Michael Chicken, a non-executive director of St Mark Homes and an employee of Neill Clerk Group, an EIS specialist, says projected house sales would have to fall by over 30 per cent before investors would be affected.

St Mark's surprise launch could prompt a flood of imitations, raising speculation of a repeat of the hugely successful business expansion schemes, the predecessors to EIS, which pumped up to £3 billion into residential property before they were banned in 1994.

However, experts say the Inland Revenue has new powers to amend tax rules as it goes along and will not let a boom in property-linked EIS schemes occur.

If you believe the property market will continue to grow St Mark does represent an interesting opportunity.

However, despite its possibly unique appeal investors should not rush into the scheme for the tax advantages alone and should take financial advice before proceeding. The minimum investment is £3,000.

For a copy of the prospectus on St Mark Homes ring: 0171 439 0145.

GAVIN LUMSDEN

Black nights at BTR

PERSONAL INVESTOR

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Safety is in the eye of the beholder. In the mid 1990s, many thousands of investors had their portfolios stuffed with shares in BTR. It was vast, worth £12 billion at one time. It was highly profitable, with a philosophy of putting profit margins before all else. And it had an impressive record of making money for shareholders as it grew by ever bigger acquisitions of manufacturing groups. Advisers knew they could safely recommend the shares. Now BTR is valued at about £3.5 billion and sells on a dividend yield more than three times the market average.

Ian Strachan, chief executive for the past three years, reckons his plan to transform the conglomerate into a "focused" engineering group is ahead of plan both on time and money. One way or another, £2 billion of spare capital has, or soon will be, returned to shareholders. But as profit warning follows disappointment, the momentum is down. The latest half-year figures sent BTR shares to a 14-year low this week.

Many corporate bosses feel they are misunderstood, usually when their share price is lagging and those valuable options are not so valuable after all. Just as bad, their regular meetings with the top fund managers turn from exercises in mutual preening to confidence-sapping ordeals of recrimination.

To their credit, many directors have bought more shares in the market downturn, backing their own judgment against the indiscriminate foraging of bears. Victor Rice of Lucas-Varity is opting to go American, deserting the ungrateful Brits who cannot understand a great motor components combine when they see one. Most do not have this choice. And there is always the possibility that bears are right.

Profits earned by conglomerates (officially diversified industrials) are now rated at just half the FTSE 100 average, less than 10 times earnings instead of 20. The only appeal of conglomerates is the bottom line. And you cannot escape that by calling yourself something else.

Like its rival Hanson, BTR found its progress barred by two underlying factors. The low-spending, margin-based approach depended on a diet of acquisitions, which had to be bigger each time to keep up momentum. It got harder and harder. And the bottom-line value of the acquisitions depended on some pretty fast accounting. Balance sheet provisions, fair values and extraordinary items allowed management to flatter profits and count them in whichever year was most convenient. Reforms introduced by the Accounting Standards Board have stamped most of that out. The game was over.

Hanson realised that first, perhaps because it always had a dealing mentality and perhaps because its shares fell even more steeply than BTR's in the mid 1990s. The group was finally broken up in 1996, handing shares in component parts such as Imperial Tobacco and Eastern Group to shareholders.

Since then, the rump Hanson building materials group has picked up, showing good profit growth this week. Even Imperial has caught up with the index. Amazingly, tobacco stocks are valued higher than conglomerates, at least until the next legal shock.

BTR could not immediately follow the Hanson route, in part because it had not sold many businesses along the way and was such a mixed bag. Instead it has sold £6 billion of businesses and bought selectively in its chosen fields. Shrinking groups are rarely popular. Mr Strachan has had to pay the price of the past by putting more emphasis on sales growth. That has not really worked as one market after another has turned sour. Manufacturers are in trouble whether conglomerate or not. BTR shareholders would doubtless love a takeover or split. Barring that, the shares may have few friends until the world economy turns up again.

Gartmore Not different, exceptional.

"Escapism. One of your better investments."

While things at home slow down, you can accelerate around the World with the Gartmore Global PEP.

For performance, our choice of top quartile funds includes*:

American Emerging Growth Fund	1st
European Selected Opportunities Fund	1st
International Growth Fund	1st
UK Capital Growth Fund	1st
UK Smaller Companies Fund	1st

Benefit now from a final year of investment in a tax free PEP.

The Gartmore Global PEP.

Call for a brochure 0800 731 3513

E-mail: helpline@gartmore.com web: www.iii.co.uk/gartmore

Source for performance figures Standard & Poor's Micropal. Offer to offer, net income reinvested to 3rd August 1998. "1st" means top quartile performance over five years in the individual Standard & Poor's Micropal sector. In the case of UK Capital Growth and International Growth since launch on 1.10.96. ISAs will be introduced from 6th April 1999 for an initial ten year period. All Personal Equity Plans held at 5th April 1999 will be unable to accept further contributions, however they can continue to be held outside the ISA with the same tax advantages. A 10% tax credit on all dividend distributions may be reclaimed up to 5th April 2004. The value of current tax relief depends on individual circumstances. If you have any doubts about your tax position, you should seek professional advice. If you have any doubt whether this product is suitable for you and you wish to obtain personal advice, please contact an independent financial adviser. You must read the Terms and Conditions before investing. The value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount originally invested. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Emerging markets are volatile and can suffer from liquidity problems. Changes in rates of exchange between currencies may also cause the value of investments to decrease or increase. Telephone calls may be recorded. Issued and Approved by Gartmore Investment Limited. Gartmore's authorised unit trusts are managed by Gartmore Fund Managers Limited. Both companies are regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority and are members of the NatWest and Gartmore Marketing Group. Gartmore House, 16-18 Monument Street, London EC3R 8AJ.

For a Gartmore Global PEP brochure, return to: Investor Services, Gartmore Investment Limited, Gartmore House, PO Box 65, 16-18 Monument Street, London EC3R 8QQ. T 12.9.98

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

L&G guide for career breaks

A practical guide for those who are considering taking a career break, either to raise a family or go travelling, has been produced by Legal & General. The guide looks at how to plan your pension to take account of a changing lifestyle and how to increase your contributions on your return to work. *Career Breaks and Pensions Factsheet* is available free by calling 0500 909090.

■ The *Which? Guide to Employment* covers full time, part-term, fixed-term, open-ended contract and jobshare, explaining rights and obligations at work as both an employee and employer.

Issues covered include agreeing terms of employment, dismissal and redundancy, industrial tribunals, maternity pay and paternity leave, discrimination and harassment, bonuses, holiday pay, and health and safety matters.

The guide also looks at working overseas and explains your position if a business relocates or closes down. The handbook is priced at £10.99 and is available in bookshops or by calling 0800 252100.

■ Midland Offshore has published two guides which detail the issues individuals should consider before leaving the United Kingdom to live and work abroad.

This follows research which revealed that 67 per cent of people who move abroad do not seek financial advice and may be paying more tax than necessary.

The *Tax Facts* leaflet explains how expatriates can arrange their finances tax efficiently and the *Country Sheets* provide information on foreign exchange restrictions and personal tax rates for 75 countries. Call 01534 616111 for free copies of the guides.

■ *Up-to-the minute share prices* can be obtained by calling NatWest Stockbrokers' new telephone information line. "Shareview" is a 24 hour automated service giving access to both 'real-time' share prices and opinions on more than 100 popular shares from NatWest analysts. Because the service is automated, callers need to obtain a list of codes corresponding to company names. This list is available in NatWest branches or by calling 0345 224488.

LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Nationwide BS 0500 302010	Invest Direct	Postal	£1	7.40	Yly
C&G 0800 742437	Instant Transfer	Instant T	£1,000	7.50	Yly
Safeway 0800 995995	Direct Savings	Instant B	£2,500	7.55	Yly
SAGA (for over 50s) 0800 514515	Postal Savings	Postal	£10,000	7.90	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Chelsea BS 0800 132351	Post-tel 40	40 day B	£5,000	7.80	Yly
Standard Life Bank 0345 555657	50 Day Notice	50 day T	£1	7.55	Yly
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	90 Direct	90 day B	£10,000	8.00	Yly
Leek United BS 0800 136605	2 Year Bond	2 year	£2,000	8.10	Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Norwich & Peterborough 0800 883322		5 year	£100	8.25	Yly
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 year	£2,500	8.20	Yly
Lambeth BS 0800 225221		5 year	£3,000	8.10	Yly
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836		5 year	£100	8.05	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 952 5252	Visa	0.57%N	6.90%N	Nil
RBS Advanta 0800 077770	Visa	0.64%N	7.90%N	Nil
Nationwide BS 302011	Visa	0.68%N	8.50%N	Nil

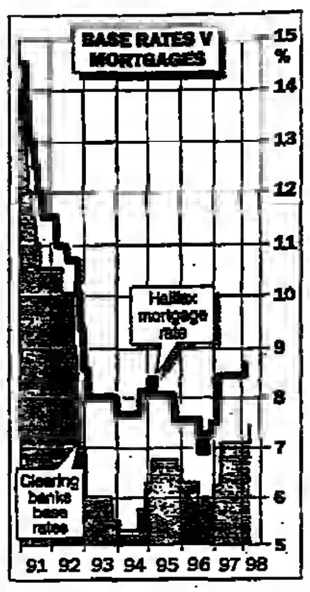
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

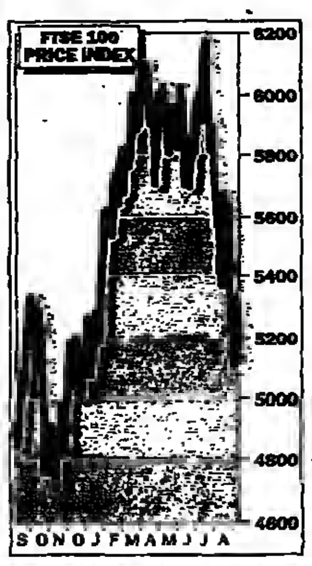
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3 yrs with insurance	no insurance
Northern Rock 0345 421421	9.90%H	£183.14	£165.56
Prudential Banking 0800 000223	12.70%	£188.75	£166.30
Direct Line 0181 680 9966	12.80%A	£183.75	£166.38

NB.A = Minimum age 22 years, B = Operated by post or telephone, F = Fixed Rate, H = If insurance not arranged APR 12.4 per cent, N = Introductory rate for a limited period, OM = Interest paid on maturity, P = Operated by Post, T = Operated by Telephone.

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01603 476747)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
				10-10,000**		0645 645000
Ordinary A/c[1]	2.00	1.60	1.20	1-499**	1 mth	0645 645000
Investment A/c*[2]	5.00	4.00	3.00	2000-25000**	3 mth	0645 645000
Income Bond *[6]	7.25	5.80	4.35	1-250k**		0645 645000
First Opt Bond[4]	6.75	5.40	4.05	100-10,000	8 day	0645 645000
46th Issue Cert†[3]	4.80			25-1000	8 day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.00					0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bond	6.00	4.80	3.60	100-250,000	8 day	0645 645000
13th Ind Linked†[3]	2.25			100-10,000	8 day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S5[7]	6.10	4.88	3.66	500-50,000[6]	60 day	0645 645000

[1] first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 [2] Unlimited additional hldgs for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble [3] Guaranteed when held for 5 years [4] 0.2% net bonus for £20,000+ [5] £100,000 jt in addition to S1, S2, S3 and S4 holdings [6] Taxable but cred in full [7] £500-100,000 earn higher rates ** Tiered rates apply

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Friends Prov .... Level	£8,265	£9,381	£10,895
Equitable Life...... Level	£8,333	£9,356	£10,757
Sun Life............ Level	£8,065	£9,222	£10,779
Legal & General.. Level	£8,123	£9,170	£10,493
Canada Life........ Level	£8,046	£9,159	£10,671

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Equitable Life...... Level	£7,628	£8,375	£9,449
Friends Prov .... Level	£7,495	£8,316	£9,497
Canada Life........ Level	£7,369	£8,229	£9,465
Norwich Union ... Level	£7,324	£8,088	£9,312
Sun Life .... Level	£7,217	£8,061	£9,288

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS Level annually	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Equitable Life...... Level	£7,250	£7,841	£8,666
Friends Prov....... Level	£6,991	£7,597	£8,433
Stalwart .... Level	£6,910	£7,586	£8,321
Canada Life .... Level	£6,888	£7,553	£8,478
Sun Life........... Level	£6,797	£7,460	£8,399

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 684 5000)

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at September 10, 1998

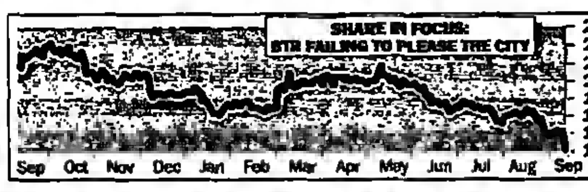
	Investment (£)	Company	Standard rate (%)
1 Year			
	5,000	AIG Life	5.62
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	5.95
	25,000	AIG Life	6.02
	40,000	AIG Life	6.06
2 Years			
	3,000	ITT London & Edin	5.95
3 Years			
	3,000	ITT London & Edin	6.00
4 Years			
	3,000	ITT London & Edin	5.95
5 Years			
	3,000	ITT London & Edin	5.80

Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-493 7900. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

	Gross Coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
FIXED RATE					
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	142.50	6.58	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	174.75	6.65	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	195.00	6.67	100.20	10,000
Britannia	13.000%	192.75	6.74	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	183.50	6.61	100.75	1,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	200.50	6.67	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	165.00	6.52	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	192.00	6.58	100.45	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	195.00	6.60	100.48	1,000
PERPETUAL SUBORDINATED BONDS					
Chelt & Gloucester	11.750%	176.75	6.65	100.98	50,000
First Active	11.750%	173.00	6.79	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	129.25	6.77	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	167.50	7.16	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.630%	203.00	6.71	100.00	50,000
Bristol & West	13.380%	196.75	6.80	100.34	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	186.25	6.78	100.14	1,000

NB: † Compulsory products, buildings and contents insurance.



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Northern Rock[1] 0845 6050500	4.59	to £250k	95	Fixed to 1.1.01 1% loan fee
Bank of Scotland 0800 121121	4.95	£25-500k	75	Fixed for 2 yrs £250 fee
Bank of Ireland 0800 109010	4.99	£25-500k	75	Fixed to 1.7.00 £280 fee
Alliance & Leic 0345 108108	5.15	£20-300k	80	Fixed to 1.10.00 0.5% fee, £300 max
Halifax plc 01422 333333	5.25	No max	90	Fixed to 31.12.00 £295 fee

NB: [1] Compulsory products, buildings and contents insurance.

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Mansfield 01246 202055	0.50	£25-250k	90	8% disc-6 mths, 4% disc-6 mths
Scarborough[1] 0990 133149	0.99	£25-250k	95	7.95% disc-6 mths more discs apply
Staffordshire 01902 317485	1.59	to £200k	90	Fixed to 1.12.99 £495 fee
Leeds & Holbeck[1] 08000 725726	1.65	to £180k	95	Fixed to 1.8.99 £295 fee
Paragon Mortgages[1] 0800 440099	2.95	£25-150k	70	6% disc-1 yr £375 fee

NB: [1]Compulsory products, buildings and contents insurance

FIRST TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Wesleyan Hm Lns[1] 0800 228855	5.60	to £100k	95	3.25% disc-1 year
Dudley 0800 3285976	5.75	to £150k	95	3% disc 12 mths more disc apply
Sun Bank Ltd 01438 744500	5.75	£25-125k	95	Fixed to 1.11.00 £495 fee
Halifax 01422 333333	5.95	to £150k	95	Fixed to 31.12.00 £195 fee
Alliance & Leic[1] 0345 108108	5.99	£20-150k	95	Fixed to 1.10.00 £150 fee

NB: [1] Compulsory products, building and contents insurance

Larger lenders,loans and first-time buyers tables by Bray's Guides Ltd (01753 880482)

7·75% gross p.a.
Fixed rate until 31/03/99. With a double guarantee.
CALL FREE 24 HRS QUOTE REF: I:2095
0800 20 21 21 BRISTOL & WEST
http://www.bristol-west.co.uk
We specialise in mortgages, savings, investments and nothing else.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh, EH12 9SE 0131 339 9191				
Balanced	569.20	602.40	-7.10	
Uk Equity	783.70	829.40	-16.50	
Property	506.80	536.30	+0.40	
Fixed Interest	385.90	408.40	+3.40	
Money	292.20	309.30	+0.50	
International	448.40	474.60	-7.00	
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Custodian S4	231.30	243.50	+0.50	
Ethical S4	183.10	192.00	+0.50	
International S4	220.40	232.10	-1.20	
Protected Gth S4	136.80	144.10	+0.60	
Asian Pacific	106.80	112.50	-0.30	
European S4	292.60	308.10	-2.60	
Prop Fd Ser 4	475.50	500.80	+0.10	
Equity Ser 4	315.40	332.40		
Man Ser 4	868.50	914.30	-0.10	
Conv Ser 4	383.40	403.60	+0.30	
Money Ser 4	383.00	403.20	+0.30	
Fixed Int Ser 4	486.20	513.00	+6.20	
American Ser 4	833.10	877.00	-7.60	
High Inc Ser 4	1007.00	1060.00	+1.00	
Indexed Inv Ser 4	285.20	300.30	+0.10	
Japan Ser 4	210.50	221.60	-2.40	
Formerly Hill Samuel Life Assurance Ltd				
Security Fund	811.30	858.60	+15.10	
British Fund	853.10	902.80	-16.60	
International	721.50	763.50	-15.30	
Dollar Fund	696.30	736.00	-15.40	
Capital Fund	666.40	705.60	-12.20	
Income Fund	1001.60	1123.40	-23.60	
Property Series A	606.10	641.40		4.40
Property Units	1015.90	1066.70		
Financial Fund	964.90	1021.10	-40.60	
Managed Ser A	748.80	792.40	-10.90	
Managed Units	1358.40	1430.30	-19.40	
High Yield Fund	955.50	1011.20	-10.00	
Money Series A	339.40	359.20	+0.30	
Money Units	456.40	480.50	+0.60	
Equity Fund	854.60	904.40	-15.00	
Fixed Interest	519.00	549.90	+1.80	
Indexed Secs	244.30	258.60	-0.10	
European Fund	1264.30	1337.00	-9.20	
Natural Res	216.80	229.30	+10.40	
Far East Fund	366.50	387.00	+1.00	
Smaller Cos	628.70	665.30	+0.40	
Special Sits	739.30	782.40	+4.40	
Man Currency	303.00	321.00	-0.10	
Japanese Tech	211.20	223.50	-3.20	
US Smaller Cos	407.30	431.10	-11.00	
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co. Ltd				
Deposit	288.60	303.80	+0.40	
Financial Ser 1	77.40	61.00	-3.60	
Fixed Interest	439.00	462.20	+6.20	
Gold	53.80	56.70	+4.40	
Managed	815.30	858.20	-14.60	
Mngd Growth	258.50	272.20	-4.50	
Property	403.90	425.30		
Residential Prop	127.00	134.70		
TSB American	401.30	422.30	-8.30	
TSB Brit Gwth	1317.20	1386.60	-30.80	
TSB European	453.70	477.60	-1.30	
TSB Income	612.10	644.40	-13.20	
TSB Ind	546.70	575.50	-9.00	
TSB Pacific	260.90	274.70	-2.40	
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	439.60	462.80	+0.50	
Equity Acc	1908.00	2009.30	[illegible]	
Property Acc	830.10	873.80	+4.00	
Far East Acc	186.40	196.30	+1.50	
Managed Capital	676.60	712.30	-5.90	
-do- Acc	1495.70	1574.30	-12.30	
Overseas Acc	1410.80	1485.10	-21.40	
Gilt Edged Acc	695.90	732.60	+13.00	
Amer Equity Acc	1346.50	1417.40	-0.10	
Amer Man Acc	556.90	586.30	-0.50	
Amer Prop Acc	118.30	124.60	-1.40	
Distribution Bonds	20.30	29.00		
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	201.30	211.00	+1.90	
Balced Ser 6	955.70	1006.00	-12.00	
Opportunity Ser 6	222.40	234.50	-4.50	
Distribution Ser 6	115.20	121.30	+0.20	6.00
UK Equities Ser 6	1469.00	1547.00	-22.00	
Higher Inc Ser 6	1622.10	1707.50	-23.40	
North Amer Ser 6	680.10	715.00	-6.50	
Far East Ser 6	350.90	369.40	+1.70	
Europe Ser 6	625.00	658.00	-17.80	
Intnl Ser 6	679.90	715.70	-13.80	
Property Ser 6	665.40	700.50	+4.10	
Fixed Int Ser 6	579.80	610.40	+8.50	
Ind-Lnkd Sec S6	245.00	257.90	+0.50	
Gted Dep Ser 6	349.10	367.50	+0.40	
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	1289.50	1357.40	-0.30	
-do- Initial	746.00	789.20	-5.40	
Gilt Edged Acc	550.00	579.00	+8.70	
-do- Initial	321.30	338.30	+5.10	
International Acc	459.90	484.00	-4.60	
-do- Initial	266.90	281.00	-2.70	
Managed Acc	715.10	752.80	-3.50	
-do- Initial	416.60	438.60	-2.00	
Money Acc	340.30	358.20	+0.40	
Property Acc	369.50	387.00	-8.20	
-do- Initial	215.00	226.40		
America Acc	479.90	505.20	-6.40	
Far East Gwth	111.60	117.50	-1.10	
Financial Acc	593.10	624.40	-7.50	
500 Accum	544.80	573.30	-0.90	
Japan Acc	152.70	160.80	-0.40	
Income Acc	754.20	794.50	-6.40	
Special Sits Acc	402.70	423.90	-0.50	
Unit Trust Acc	198.20	208.60	-1.00	

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
For Black Horse Life see Lloyds TSB Life				
BRITANNIA 50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR 0141 248 2000				
Managed Pnsl	230.50	244.90		
Performance Plus	258.40	274.50	-2.30	
With Profit Pnsl	208.50	220.80	+0.50	
UK Opportunity	308.70	325.60	-0.40	
Euro Opportunity	363.80	384.70	-2.40	
North Amer Opp	311.80	329.70	-0.90	
Far East Opp	139.40	147.30	+1.00	
Gwth Prop Ser 1	199.60	210.10	+2.70	
6th Prop Ser 2	261.30	276.40	+0.10	
Fixed Int	281.30	297.00	+3.80	
Cash	185.20	195.80	+0.10	
Overseas	289.00	316.40	-2.70	
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	482.90	508.40		
UK Equity	933.00	983.00	-1.40	
Property	360.60	379.00	+0.10	
Money Market	293.40	308.90	+0.30	
Fixed Interest	408.90	430.20	+5.50	
Japan	239.80	252.50	-0.60	
North America	277.30	291.00	-0.00	
International	462.00	486.40	-4.10	
European	465.00	488.50	-3.10	
Far East	103.30	108.70	+0.70	
CANADA LIFE 2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Managed	455.40	479.40	+12.40	
Property	329.10	346.50	+0.90	
Gilt & Fxd Int	323.20	340.30	+1.90	
Equity	565.00	598.00	+19.70	
Cash	249.50	262.70	+0.30	
CLife Euro Mgd	586.80	617.70	+40.10	
CLife Intl Fd	369.30	388.60	+12.50	
Managed Fund	972.30	1023.50	+27.10	
Property Fund	662.00	697.30	+0.40	
Equity Fund	1403.80	1477.20	+48.00	
Gilt Edged Fd	834.90	877.00	+4.00	
Deposit Fund	385.00	405.30	+0.30	
Investment Fd	637.40	669.20	+32.60	
International	587.90	618.80	+30.80	
Formerly Albany Life				
UK Equity	2125.20	2237.00	-4.20	
Merc European	635.80	669.20	-6.20	
Merc Fxd Int	690.70	727.00	+9.20	
Gtd Money	389.70	410.20	+0.40	
Mercury Intl Mgd	727.30	765.50	-6.00	
Merc Int Fxd Int	414.50	436.20	+6.50	
Mercury Japan	169.30	140.20	-2.30	
Merc Wn Amer	509.40	536.40	-9.30	
UK Property	546.20	574.90	+0.70	
Merc Multip Inv	1321.00	1390.50	-4.00	
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2RU 01908 606101				
Property Fund	237.00	250.40		
Managed Fund	871.00	917.50	+5.60	
Equity Fund	543.80	572.50	+2.00	
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	386.40	406.80	-5.60	
Ruby	205.40	216.30	-1.10	
Emerald	189.40	199.40	+1.00	
Equity	476.70	501.80	-9.40	
Property	274.90	289.50	+0.30	
Gilt & Fixed Int	284.80	299.90	+4.10	
Indexed Secs	227.10	239.10	+0.10	
Cash	218.80	230.40	+0.40	
Nth American	394.30	408.80	-3.40	
Far East	216.40	228.20	+2.30	
International	286.50	301.60	-4.70	
Special Sits	521.00	548.50	-0.40	
Intl Income	462.50	486.90	-5.10	
European	555.00	584.00	-17.10	
Japanese	89.00	93.70	+0.90	
SE Asia	241.20	253.00	+4.00	
With Profits Reg	207.20	218.20	+0.30	
-do- Spec	207.20	210.20	+0.30	
Flexible Retirement Plan Funds				
Mixed	456.30	480.40	-5.80	
Equity	803.40	835.50	-10.20	
Property	267.50	281.80	+0.30	
Gilt & Fixed Int	383.70	403.90	+6.50	
Index Linked	250.00	263.20	+0.10	
Cash	308.40	322.80	+0.40	
Nth American	497.30	523.50	-7.70	
Far East Acc	209.30	220.40	+2.90	
International Acc	355.50	374.30	-8.70	
Special Sits	788.30	808.80	-0.70	
European Flex	793.70	835.50	-24.40	
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY 01634 890 000				
(Units) Key 1	269.50	..	-7.07	
-do- Facemaker 1	429.10	..	-12.44	
-do- Cash	233.40	245.69	+0.18	
-do- Equity	780.54	821.60	+19.14	
-do- Fxd Int	480.75	506.06	+1.29	
-do- Managed	546.00	575.84	+14.04	
-do- Property	408.29	429.78	+11.40	
(Pensns) Cash Cap	224.29	236.11	+0.13	
-do- Cash Inv	374.70	394.43	+0.46	
-do- Equity Cap	1865.87	1963.87	-42.27	
-do- Equity Inv	3116.73	3280.70	-68.37	
-do- Fixed Cap	520.82	548.24	+7.15	
-do- Fixed Inv	870.07	915.88	+12.57	
-do- Index Cap	252.78	266.07	+0.10	
-do- Index Inv	422.25	444.49	-0.47	
-do- Mngd Cap	741.11	780.12	-11.94	
-do- Mngd Inv	1238.07	1303.24	-10.06	
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5) 1	1192.59	..	+23.33	
Var Ann (5) 1	128.66	..	+2.00	
Prime Managed	545.30	574.10	-6.30	
Prime UK Equity	728.90	767.30	-11.40	

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Prime Intl Equity	344.90	363.10	-5.60	
Prime Property	295.10	310.70	+0.60	
Prime Fxd Int	309.70	326.10	+4.70	
Prime Index-Lnk	225.90	237.70	+0.10	
Prime Cash	239.90	252.30	+0.30	
CONFEDERATION LIFE Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744842				
Managed Fund	1446.80	1522.90	-98.70	
Equity 1	2243.30	2361.30	-164.50	
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham, GL53 7LQ 01242 221311				
Life Funds				
Uk Wth Pfts (5&6) 1	125.20	..	+0.30	
Secure (2) 1	117.40	..	+8.20	
Managed (3) 1	132.00	..	-1.80	
Equity Mngd (3) 1	128.00	..	-2.30	
Adventurous (3) 1	118.20	..	-1.50	
Bristol & West (2) 1	120.10	..	+0.30	
Equity Mgd S1	309.30	325.80	-5.00	
Managed S1	315.30	331.90	-4.20	
Adventurous S1	239.90	252.60	-3.40	
Managed (2)	219.30	226.70	-2.80	
EagleMid Uts	415.80	430.90	-6.50	0.01
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5) 1	127.30		+9.20	
Secure (2) 1	119.80		+8.20	
Managed (2) 1	132.20		-2.00	
Equity Mngd (2) 1	130.20		-2.80	
Adventurous (2) 1	118.90		-1.00	
Bristol & West (2) 1	123.10		+8.20	
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed	436.50	459.40	-2.70	2.00
UK Equity	612.60	644.80	-3.00	5.00
Stewardship	503.00	530.30	+4.00	1.00
Overseas Equity	393.30	414.00	-4.00	0.00
North American	239.70	252.30	-4.10	7.00
Pacific Basin	111.20	117.00	-0.70	1.00
European	443.70	488.10	-4.20	2.00
Property	255.50	287.30	+0.40	
Fixed Interest	324.40	341.40	+4.00	4.00
Index Linked	226.80	238.70	+0.40	
Cash	236.20	248.60	+0.20	
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	720.70	758.60	+0.20	
Managed	972.10	1023.20	-5.50	4.00
Deposit	405.10	426.40	+0.40	
Property	631.00	665.00	-0.00	7.00
American	689.20	725.40	-13.00	5.00
Australian	579.40	609.90	-2.40	0.00
European	1065.80	1121.00	-11.30	8.00
Income Acc	1145.50	1205.70	-5.60	2.00
-do- Dist	601.60	633.30	-3.40	6.00
International	412.20	433.90	-4.40	7.90
Japan Smaller	221.00	232.60	+1.90	4.00
Singapore & Mal	193.90	203.60	-2.00	5.00
Tokyo Fund	490.00	515.70	+4.00	1.00
UK Equity	866.10	911.60	-3.90	5.00
CCM Vangd Mg	1013.40	1066.70	-4.00	5.00
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	180.50	190.10	+0.20	
GT Plan Wwide	566.00	596.20	-4.60	
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	814.00	814.00	-19.00	
-do- Inv A	814.00	856.80	-10.30	
UK Equity	554.90	583.40	-11.30	
Gilt Plus	262.30	276.00	+3.20	
Managed	374.30	394.20	-4.30	
GENERAL ACCIDENT 2 Rougier St, York Y01 1HR 01904 628982				
Managed	283.30	290.40	-3.20	
Unitised Profit	178.00	187.40	+0.20	
UK Equity	436.30	459.10	-6.40	
Fixed Int	261.10	274.90	+3.80	
Index-Linked	219.00	230.50	+0.20	
Cash Deposit	202.90	213.50	+0.20	
Property	223.30	235.00	+0.20	
International	214.00	226.10	-1.30	
American	279.90	293.80	-3.40	
Japan	148.70	156.40	-0.30	
Japan Smllr Cos	152.30	160.20	-0.30	
European	295.20	310.90	-7.50	
Pacific Fund	141.00	149.40	+0.70	
Conv Life	176.40	185.60	-3.30	
Formerly Provident Mutual				
Managed Ord	649.40	682.50	-7.30	
Managed Initial	386.80	407.20	-4.60	
Equity Ord	1104.40	1162.50	-16.10	
Equity Init	658.90	693.00	-10.00	
I-Linked Gilt Ord	267.30	281.40	+6.20	
I-Linked Gilt Init	168.50	175.30		
Overs Equity Ord	441.60	465.10	-8.70	
Overs Equity Init	262.60	277.50	-4.10	
Property Ord	347.40	365.70	+0.30	
Property Init	207.20	218.10		
Fixed Int Ord	382.00	402.30	+5.50	
Fixed Int Init	228.00	240.00	+3.20	
Deposit Ord	242.30	255.10	+0.30	
Deposit Initial	144.60	152.20	+0.10	
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE Royal Exchange London EC3 0171 283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	1046.40	1090.40	..	
Managed Initial	589.00	620.90	-5.30	
-do- Acc	902.40	949.90	-8.06	
Equity Initial	973.30	1025.20	-13.00	
-do- Acc	1492.30	1570.00	-21.20	
Fixed Int Initial	566.80	596.60	+7.60	
-do- Acc	868.50	914.20	+12.00	
Intl Initial	504.10	530.70	-0.80	
-do- Acc	772.40	813.10	-10.20	
Nth Amer Initial	288.00	303.20	-4.70	
-do- Acc	401.00	422.80	-6.58	

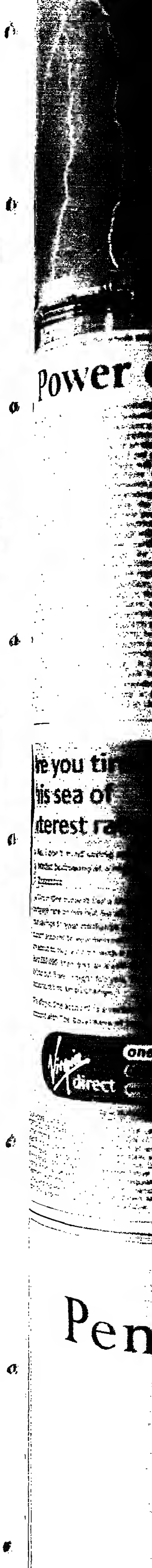
	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Pacific Initial	116.90	123.00	+0.20	
-do- Acc	181.40	190.90	+0.30	
Property Initial	213.90	225.10		
-do- Acc	327.20	344.90		
Index-Lnkd Initl	201.00	212.40	+0.20	
-do- Acc	281.40	296.30	+0.40	
Deposit Initial	216.40	228.10	+0.20	
-do- Acc	332.10	349.60	+0.40	
Euro Initial	166.20	174.90	-1.60	
-do- Acc	214.10	225.40	-2.10	
HALIFAX LIFE LTD PO Box 285, York YO1 1TS 01904 611110				
Life Funds				
Foundation	35.45	37.32	-0.22	
Balanced	34.57	36.00	-0.34	
Opportunity	34.63	36.40	-0.43	
Deposit	27.70	29.10	+0.03	
Pension Funds				
Foundation S2	28.12	29.60	-0.01	
Balanced S2	27.67	29.13	-0.21	
Opportunity S2	26.35	27.74	-0.25	
Deposit S2	29.38	27.77	+0.03	
HAMBRO ASSURED Harbour Flmes, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR 01772 840000				
Managed	330.00	342.10	+1.10	
-do- Pens	298.50	314.20	+1.70	
UK Equity	264.90	278.40	+1.30	
-do- Pens	326.60	343.70	+2.00	
International	178.40	188.10	+3.20	
-do- Pens	198.70	208.60	+4.10	
Deposit	163.10	171.60	+0.10	
-do- Pens	202.60	213.20	+0.30	
For Hill Samuel see Abbey Life Assurance				
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF 01727 48181				
Global Managed	774.40	815.20	+4.10	
Global Property	370.70	390.20		
Global Fixed Int	712.00	750.30	+6.60	
Global Equity	832.90	876.70	-4.10	
Global Cash	350.40	368.80	+0.30	
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE 8 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 01273 824000				
6 Soc Lnkd Ini	134.80	141.90		
-do- Acc	209.40	220.50	+0.30	
Brit Opps Ini	194.00	204.30	-1.40	
-do- Acc	269.60	283.00	-2.00	
Cash Initial	175.30	184.60	+0.20	
-do- Acc	337.90	355.80	+0.40	
Equity Initial	895.90	943.10	-16.60	
-do- Acc	1726.20	1817.10	-32.00	
Fixed Initial	423.20	445.50	+5.30	
-do- Acc	815.50	858.50	+10.60	
Index-Lnkd Gilt	164.30	173.00	+0.10	
-do- Acc	270.10	284.40	+0.10	
Intl Initial	325.10	342.30	-6.30	
-do- Acc	618.00	649.30	-11.00	
Managed Initial	577.00	607.40	-9.10	
-do- Acc	1111.80	1140.40	-17.30	
Property Initial	250.00	263.20	+0.30	
-do- Acc	401.40	507.10	+0.00	
LINCOLN The Quays, 101-105 Oxford Road, Uxbridge, Middx UB8 1LZ 01895 200 200				
Equity Units	£197.20	..	-265.40	
Property Units	3426.50	3606.70	+1.50	
Bal Gd Exec Unit	8619.70	9072.30	-106.70	
2nd Equity Acc	926.30	975.00	-13.10	
2nd High Inc Ac	896.10	943.16	-10.20	
2nd Property Acc	306.30	322.30	+0.10	
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	219.40	231.10	+0.10	
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	596.60	627.30	-7.40	
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	260.80	274.40	-4.10	
2nd Deposit Acc	330.80	348.20	+0.30	
2nd Gilt Acc	409.10	430.50	+5.40	
2nd Amer Acc	986.70	1038.50	-16.50	
2nd Intl Mny Acc	261.00	274.70	+4.40	
2nd Index Acc	267.30	281.30	+0.20	
2nd Far East Acc	169.60	178.40	+3.80	
2nd Global Acc	176.60	185.80	-3.50	
2nd Euro Acc	247.00	259.90	-9.00	
2nd Japan Acc	99.60	104.80		
2nd Int Cr Bd Acc	186.20	195.00	+3.10	
2nd Cap Gth Acc	176.30	185.50	-1.60	
ex-Lowndes				
Property	682.40	686.70	+0.30	
Managed	535.80	563.90	-6.80	
American	587.30	618.10	-9.30	
UK Equity Fd	672.60	707.90	-9.50	
Japan	109.70	115.40		
Index-Lkd	239.40	251.90	+0.10	
High Yield	1245.10	1310.50	-14.20	
Money	470.00	494.70	+0.40	
International	396.80	417.60	-8.00	
Perpetual Accpw	380.00	399.90	+3.40	
Growth Acc	837.70	881.70	-10.40	
Gilt Edged	579.50	609.90	+7.70	
European	225.40	237.70	-8.20	
Far East	89.70	94.40	+1.50	
LLOYDS TSB LIFE Wexham Hse, Chatham, Kent 01634 834000				
Life Funds-Series Two-Current Series				
Balanced	987.60	1039.90	+13.79	
Cash	330.43	347.00	+0.33	
Contl Euro Gth	228.91	240.96	+5.91	
Extra Income	1019.91	1073.59	+3.44	
Fixed Interest	459.36	483.54	+6.12	
German Growth	375.38	395.14	+3.55	
Income	1123.62	1182.40	+5.85	
Japan Growth	117.52	123.71	-0.99	
Managed Inv	659.41	694.12	+6.00	
N Amer & Genl	612.13	644.35	+4.44	
Nth Amer Recov	311.26	327.65	-3.23	
Pacific Basin	196.97	207.34	+12.90	
Property	478.40	501.45	+1.24	
Smllr Cos Recov	1011.99	1065.25	+18.56	

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
The UK Gth Fd	320.49	337.30	-4.86	
Worldwide Gth	847.00	891.14	+11.67	
Life Funds-Series One				
Income	1144.09	1204.31	+5.81	
Managed Inv	672.94	708.36	+0.10	
Life Funds				
Managed	1121.24	1121.24	+9.50	
Pension Funds				
Cash Pen	222.22	233.92	+0.27	
European Pen	391.40	412.42	+12.03	
Far East Pen	75.38	80.40	+4.86	
Fixed Int Pen	269.48	283.65	+3.83	
FTSE 100	150.35	158.27	+2.70	
Managed Pen	316.86	333.39	+3.28	
Nth Amer Pen	322.41	339.30	+2.74	
Property Pen	292.37	307.70	+0.65	
UK Equity Pen	299.56	315.32	+4.58	
LONDON LIFE Spectrum, Bond Street, Bristol, BS1 3AL 0117 984 7777				
Equity 1	1332.00		-4.50	
Fixed Interest 1	987.30		+8.00	
Property 1	515.40		+0.10	
Deposit 1	348.40		+0.40	
Mixed 1	607.60		-0.90	
Indexed Stock 1	304.80		+0.30	
International 1	322.20		-0.00	
Equity A 1	307.30		-1.20	
Fixed Int A 1	268.00		+3.90	
Property A 1	325.30			
Deposit A 1	203.70		+0.30	
Mixed A 1	264.00		-0.30	
Index Stock A 1	237.20		+0.20	
International A 1	200.20		-0.50	
Equity P 1	7174.70		-5.20	
Fixed Int P 1	845.70		+12.10	
Property P 1	388.40			
Deposit P 1	422.70		+0.00	
Mixed P 1	772.90		-1.50	
Index Stock P 1	351.70		+0.30	
International P 1	387.50		-1.50	
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSCE Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS 01392 282400				
Inv Trust Cap 1	582.10		+4.50	
-do- Acc 1	1169.00		+10.10	
Property Cap 1	142.20			
-do- Acc 1	288.00		+8.40	
Fxd Interest Cap 1	227.40		+2.40	
-do- Acc 1	432.10		+4.80	
Equity Cap 1	411.50		+4.80	
-do- Acc 1	799.30		+10.00	
Internal Cap 1	237.10		-0.20	
-do- Acc 1	453.90			
Gtd Deposit Cap 1	158.90			
-do- Acc 1	300.00		+0.30	7.20
Flexible Cap 1	405.20		+2.90	
-do- Acc 1	782.10		+6.00	
Moneymaker Fd 1	594.70		+5.30	
Capital Growth 1	3506.00		+36.90	
M & G Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 01245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	608.50	639.00	-2.50	
Amer Rec Bond	615.40	646.30	+9.00	
Am Smlr Cos Bd	241.50	254.10	-1.40	
Australasia Bd	248.50	262.10	-0.30	
Commodity Bond	271.30	285.00	+1.00	
Deposit Bond Acc	422.30	443.50	+0.30	
Equity Bond Acc	1987.40	2087.10	+30.90	
European Bd Acc	662.70	696.00	+7.35	
Extra Yld Bd Acc	1001.40	1114.60	-14.90	
Gilt Bond Acc	610.20	640.00	+3.00	
Gold Bond Acc	109.00	114.60	+5.60	
High Yield Bond	433.80	455.80	+3.00	
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	273.40	287.10		
International Bd	853.20	896.00	+2.50	
Japan Bond Acc	138.40	146.00		
Japan Sm Cos Ac	162.40	170.80	+2.00	
Managed Bonds	1154.20	1212.00	+9.80	
Prop Bond Acc	500.30	525.40	+12.50	
Rec Bond Acc	1033.40	1085.20	+3.40	
S East Asia Bd Acc	177.30	186.30	+3.50	
MGM ASSURANCE MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY 01903 204631				
UK Equity	306.00	323.10	-0.10	
UK Equity Acc	493.00	519.00	-0.10	
Special Sits	130.20	137.10	+0.60	
Special Sits Acc	209.60	220.70	-1.10	
North American	257.20	270.80	-2.70	
N American Acc	414.00	435.80	-4.10	
Pacific Basin	203.90	214.40	-1.00	
Pacific Basin Acc	328.30	345.60	+1.00	
Fixed Interest	340.40	358.40	+3.70	
Fixed Interest Acc	548.60	577.00	+6.00	
Property	205.20	216.00	-0.60	
Property Acc	330.60	348.00	-0.80	
Deposit	156.70	167.10	+0.10	
Deposit Acc	255.70	269.20	+0.20	
Managed	320.00	337.80	-0.80	
Managed Acc	475.80	501.00	-0.70	
MERCHANT INVESTORS St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead, Bristol BS1 2NH 0117 9266 366				
Property	514.70	541.70	+12.40	
UK Equity	550.10	582.20	-3.00	
Gilt Edged	844.00	889.20	+20.10	
Interest Fund	470.10	494.90	+0.50	
Managed Fd	604.20	636.00	+1.80	
Intl Equity	679.00	714.70	+0.10	
North American	328.00	345.20	+1.20	
Far East	267.10	281.10	-1.00	
Intl Currency	290.70	306.00	-3.00	
MPI 48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH 0171 623 4288				
Managed	644.80	678.70	-5.10	
UK Equity	939.70	989.10	-16.50	
Overseas Equity	815.40	842.90	-20.40	
Americas	580.60	611.10	-0.40	

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Far East	314.00	330.50	+1.70	
Property	258.90	272.50	+0.40	
Fixed Interest	529.90	557.70	+5.60	
Indexed Gilt	314.80	331.10	+0.30	
Deposit	255.50	268.90	+0.20	
NAT WEST LIFE ASSCE LTD PO Box 696, Trinity Quay, Bristol BS99 5LJ 0117 940 4040				
Growth Mgd Pens	179.10	188.40	-2.50	
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NU&IL Funds PO Box 149, Norwich NR3 1FP 01603 622200				
Managed Fund	1996.20	2101.30	-28.90	
Equity Fund	4668.30	4913.60	-92.80	
Property Fd	782.10	823.30	+3.20	
Fixed Int Fd	841.10	885.40	+14.20	
Deposit Fund	415.90	437.80	+0.40	
Intl Fund	305.70	321.00	-5.50	
OLD MUTUAL 8 Bentley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	421.80	445.00	-3.10	
Fxd Interest Acc	333.80	351.80	+4.30	
International Acc	303.70	320.30	-5.80	
Managed Acc	289.80	305.80	-2.60	
Property Acc	239.60	252.70	+0.30	
Money Acc	179.20	189.00	+0.10	
Spec Mkt Acc	232.30	245.00	-5.70	
Japan Equity Acc	63.90	67.00	-0.20	
N Amer Acc	258.60	273.50	-5.00	
Pacific Acc	74.00	79.00	+0.20	
European Acc	273.70	288.70	-10.90	
PEARL ASSURANCE The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY 01733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	150.60	165.80	+0.20	
Prop Acc (Gross)	404.00	426.20	+0.30	
Inv Equity	1840.20	1998.70	-13.20	
Inv Managed	1207.80	1271.40	-6.80	
Ret Managed	1417.10	1491.70	-6.80	
PRUDENTIAL Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 01165 578334				
Managed	486.30	508.40	+18.50	
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS 55 King's Road, Reading RG1 3AH 0345 601 601				
Managed Fund	1055.70	1111.30	-0.40	
Equity Fund	2380.60	2505.90	-35.60	
Intl Fund	727.80	766.20	-12.10	
Fixed Interest	754.70	794.50	+8.40	
Property Fund	586.00	616.90	+0.00	
Cash Fund	426.20	448.70	+0.40	
Pacific Basin	231.40	243.60	+1.40	
N American Fd	426.70	449.20	-0.70	
Euro Fund	487.50	513.20	-14.50	
Balanced Fund	207.40	218.40	-1.00	
Strategic Fund	231.20	243.40	-3.90	
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6BB 01733 390000				
Mult Grow (49) 1	1036.00	..	-82.30	
-do- Acc	534.87	563.04	-40.87	
Op Prop	565.60	595.40		
Op Equity	1480.80	1558.70	+19.10	
Op High Yield	821.80	865.10	+6.30	
Op Managed	1080.90	1137.40	+6.70	
Op Deposit	459.00	483.20	+0.30	
Japan Smlr	117.30	123.50	+5.60	
Managed Gilt	388.90	386.20	+11.40	
British	530.00	557.80	+13.30	
Global Bond	130.20	137.10	+2.50	
Gold Share	44.10	46.40	+4.10	
Japan	235.30	247.70	+14.40	
UK Smlr Cos	591.00	622.90	+8.00	
Mngd Growth	619.30	651.00	+13.90	
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 0151 236 3060				
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	526.40	554.00	+2.30	
SAVE & PROSPER 16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB 01708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	102.00	108.90		1.89
Deposit Fund (2)	447.60	473.20	+8.60	7.29
Gilt Fund	710.20	758.70	+9.70	6.20
Global Equity Fd	259.20	274.30	-3.00	
Property Fund (46)	142.30	190.80		6.35
SCOTTISH AMICABLE 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 0141 248 2323				
Equity	863.50	909.10	-13.10	
Fixed Interest	491.40	517.30	+5.00	
Index-Linked	258.40	272.00		
International	498.30	524.60	-3.80	
Property	379.70	399.70	+4.30	
Cash	265.80	279.80	+0.10	
Managed	802.20	833.90	-4.10	
Cap Grwt Bd	183.30	192.60	-2.70	
95% Safeguard	108.00		-0.50	
100% Safeguard	105.00		+0.30	
Wealth Pres Cap	111.00		-1.00	
Wealth Pres Inc 1	6.50	...	+4.60	
BasicBond	100.00		-1.50	
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE 28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 0131 556 9101				
Cash	212.89	224.10	+0.21	
Index-Linked	230.90	232.50	+0.70	
Fixed Interest	251.90	265.20	+3.00	
Mixed	348.00	364.30	-7.00	
UK Equity	342.40	360.80	-9.50	
International	325.20	342.40	-7.00	
American	475.70	500.00	-18.10	
Japan	156.50	164.70	+1.10	
European	456.70	480.80	-18.30	
Pacific	192.10	202.20	+0.10	
Technology	635.30	668.80	-8.70	
Frgn Bd/Cncy	265.60	279.60	+4.40	

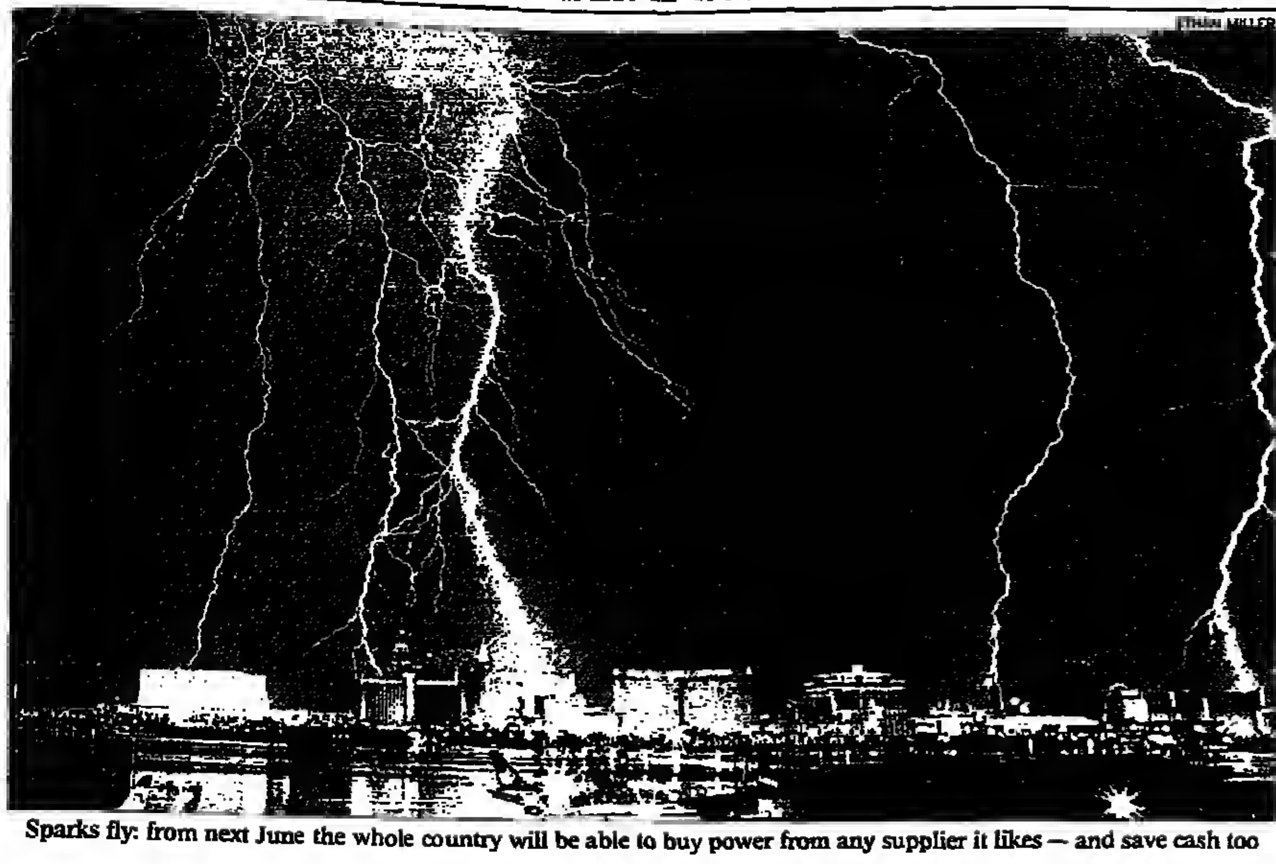
	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 0131 225 2211				
Property	283.50	298.50	+0.20	
UK Equity	560.40	590.00	-3.40	
American	408.50	428.00	+2.70	
Pacific	224.40	236.30	-0.20	
European	738.40	777.30	-2.50	
Global Mgd	341.40	359.40	-1.30	
Fixed Interest	301.30	348.80	+2.80	
Index Linked	269.50	283.70	-0.30	
Deposit	229.90	241.30	+0.20	
Managed	388.90	408.50	-1.50	
Worldwide	125.60	132.30	-3.20	
Pen Worldwide	134.20	141.30	-3.50	
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE 109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 0141 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	2573.60	2663.20		
Safety Fund	322.70	339.70	+0.30	
Growth Fund	310.00	335.40	-3.00	
Opportunity Fd	324.20	341.30	-1.20	
Cash Fund	203.50	214.50	+0.20	
European Fund	591.00	622.20	-15.90	
Gilts & Fxd Int	290.90	306.30	+4.70	
Index-Linked Fd	239.40	252.10	+0.80	
International Fd	334.60	352.30	-6.20	
North American	384.10	404.40	-3.40	
Property Fund	140.90	140.40		
UK Equity	368.10	387.50	-4.00	
UK Smaller	276.50	291.10	+2.60	
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT 6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 0131 556 9181				
Mixed	301.20	369.80	-4.80	
Equity	391.40	412.30	-3.60	
International	306.20	322.40	-10.40	
Property	287.50	302.00	+0.20	
Fixed Interest	353.30	372.00	+2.80	
Index Linked	248.20	261.40	+0.70	
Cash	216.00	227.40	+0.20	
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	1068.80	1128.60	-14.50	
Cash Fund	394.30	415.50	+0.50	
Property Fund	373.40	393.00	-0.40	
Equity Fund	1035.50	1102.00	-20.00	
Fxd Interest Fund	677.20	713.60	+3.50	
International	438.40	466.40	-12.30	
High Income	985.90	1048.90	-13.20	
Far East	340.60	362.40	+2.40	
North American	764.30	813.10	-19.00	
Special Sits	920.50	979.30	-3.70	
Technology	1036.70	1102.00	+9.40	
Extra Income Fd	558.70	594.40	-4.20	
Gilt Fund	576.50	613.30	+0.40	
European	234.80	249.60	-8.50	
Adventurous Mg	241.90	255.00	-3.00	
Cautious Mngd	207.10	218.30	-0.50	
Equity Inc Dist	144.30	152.10	+0.20	5.26
Managed Dist	133.90	141.20		5.49
Henderson Investment Bonds				
UK Equity Fd	443.30	471.40	+1.70	
North America	528.40	562.20	+9.00	
Far East Fund	358.00	380.90	+7.60	
Global Managed	595.30	633.30	+4.30	
Deposit Fund	265.90	279.90	+8.20	
European Fund	458.30	487.60	+2.30	
Fixed Interest	67.90	72.20	+1.20	
SCOTTISH WIDOWS PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 0131 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	1349.00	1349.00	-23.20	3.38
Inv Pol 2	1214.40	1278.40	-22.00	
Inv Pol 3	1138.90	1198.90	-20.60	
Inv Cash	368.40	387.80	+0.30	
Mixed Fund	615.00	647.30	-4.90	
Equity Fund	793.10	835.00	-6.30	
Property Fund	328.20	345.60	-0.30	
International Fd	561.00	590.60	-9.50	
Fixed Interest Fd	521.90	549.50	+5.60	
Indexed Stock Fd	267.70	281.00	-0.10	
Cash Fund	269.80	283.90	+0.40	
SKANDIA LIFE Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 01703 334411				
Managed Acc	537.70	566.00	-7.90	
Equity Acc	735.40	774.10	-10.70	
International Acc	402.10	423.30	+6.00	
Property	279.50	294.70	-0.20	
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO Standard Life House, 30 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH1 2DH 0131 225 2552				
Cash	315.40	332.10	+0.40	
Equity	1587.10	1670.70	-15.30	
European	254.10	267.50	-6.50	0.86
Far East	119.00	125.30	+0.80	
Fixed Interest	555.00	584.30	+8.40	
Index Linked	286.70	301.30	+0.60	
International	688.20	724.50	-12.30	
Managed	976.20	1027.60	-0.10	
Nth American	220.60	232.30	-1.80	
Property	458.30	482.50	-0.40	
Pensions				
Cash	530.40	543.60	+0.60	
Equity	2491.00	2622.20	-28.00	
European	323.60	340.70	-10.70	
Far East	86.40	91.00	-0.30	
Fixed Interest	834.10	870.10	+15.10	
Index Linked	423.70	446.00	+1.30	
International	985.50	1037.40	-17.50	
Managed	1447.10	1523.30	-16.90	
Nth American	305.50	321.60	-5.60	
Property	723.90	762.10	+1.50	
Stock Exchange	316.60	333.30	-4.00	
SUN ALLIANCE St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex 01403 232323				
Managed Fund	976.10	1027.50	-7.40	
Equity Fund	1410.20	1484.40	+6.30	
Fixed Interest Fd	574.30	604.50	+6.50	
Index-Linked Fd	447.70	471.30	-0.30	
Property Fund	616.20	648.60	+0.60	
International Fd	827.60	871.20	+12.00	
N American Fd	442.70	466.00	-4.80	

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Far East Fund	161.20	169.70		
Deposit Fund	353.70	372.30	+0.30	
Intnl Bd 1	£317.50			
Worldwide Bond	181.90	191.50	+2.30	
European	312.90	329.40	-5.20	
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	993.10	1045.40	+7.70	
Ebor Phoenix Eq	759.60	820.30		
Property Growth				
Property Fund 1	727.70	..	+0.40	
-do- Acc 1	669.80	..	+0.70	
Agricultural Fd 1	978.00	..	+1.00	
-do- Acc 1	927.70	..	+0.90	
Abbey Nat Fd 1	535.90	..	+0.60	
Abbey Nat Acc 1	559.00	..	+0.70	
Investment Fd 1	527.10	..	+3.00	
Investment (A) 1	503.00	..	+3.60	
Equity 1	2090.10	..	+9.00	
Equity Acc 1	1983.30	..	+8.50	
Money Fund 1	574.20	..	+0.60	
-do- Acc 1	544.10	..	+0.50	
Actuarial Fd 1	870.00	..	+6.60	
Gilt-Edged Fd 1	542.10	..	+7.70	
-do- Acc 1	542.30	..	+7.20	
Retire Annuity 1	1545.50	..	+1.30	
Imm Annuity 1	306.60	..		
Bldg Soc Life 1	267.90	..	+0.30	
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 01256 841414				
Growth Acc 1	2184.80		+43.20	
Managed Acc 1	7787.60		-32.10	
Equity Account 1	1854.30		-43.40	
Mngd Fund Acc	535.00	564.90	-0.60	
Equity Fund Acc	793.00	835.60	-19.60	
Prop Fund Acc	349.90	368.40	+1.20	
Fixed Int Fd Acc	440.90	464.10	+8.20	
Money Fund Acc	258.40	272.00	+0.30	
Indx-Lnk Secs Ac	272.10	286.50	+0.30	
Pers Pens Acct 1	2800.00		+73.10	
Pens Mngd Acct	1301.00	1370.40	+35.70	
Pens Guarantee	342.50	360.50	+8.50	
Pens Equity	545.90	574.60	+18.20	
Pens Property	413.70	435.50	+0.60	
Pens Fixed Int	448.40	472.30	-0.00	
Pens Intl	302.70	318.70	+10.30	
Pens Money	290.00	306.10	+0.20	
Pens Indx-Lnkd	275.50	290.00	-0.60	
SUN LIFE UNIT St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0117 9426911				
Managed Acc	1171.10	1232.00	-14.70	
Property Acc	507.00	534.70	+3.10	
Equity Acc	2149.10	2262.30	-35.00	
Fixed Int Acc	566.40	596.30	+8.30	
Cash Acc	365.80	384.00	+0.80	
Amer Equity Acc	623.10	655.90	-9.00	
Japan Acc	165.40	174.20	+0.19	
Pacific Acc	217.10	228.60	+1.60	
Far Eastern Acc	483.50	509.00	+2.30	
International Acc	644.10	678.10	-13.00	
Distribution Fund	349.90	368.40	-2.10	5.29
European	295.60	317.20	-8.20	
Delind Dist	249.10	262.30	-1.50	
For TSB Life see Lloyds TSB Life				
TESCO PERSONAL FINANCE LIFE LTD PO Box 23042, Edinburgh EH3 5YG 0845 846 8888				
UK Growth	85.40	85.70	+0.07	
Balanced Growth	94.00	94.00		
Intl Growth	84.40	84.40	-0.70	
WINDSOR LIFE Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 01952 292929				
Managed Bond	915.80	963.10	-11.40	
Money Fund	373.70	393.30	+0.40	
Equity Fund	879.30	925.50	-12.10	
Fixed Interest	387.80	408.20	+7.40	
Property Fund	467.00	492.10	+0.40	
Gresham Franklington				
American 0 Bnd	740.50	782.60	-11.80	
Income	1015.30	1068.70	-14.00	
International Gth	726.00	765.40	-6.80	
Capital Fund	763.20	803.30	-10.50	
Recovery Fund	510.20	537.90	+1.00	
Japan & General	159.70	168.10	-2.20	
Formerly AEtna Life Funds				
Squirrel	21.28	22.39	+0.02	
Bear	28.77	30.28	-0.34	
Owl	29.02	30.54	-0.34	
Bull	23.32	24.54	-0.30	
Stag	21.39	22.51	+0.06	
Gilt Edged	25.51	26.85	+0.49	
Deposit	18.28	19.24	+0.02	
Pensions				
Squirrel	30.42	32.02	+0.04	
Bear	43.37	45.65	-0.38	
Owl	42.21	44.43	-0.74	
Bull	32.10	33.78	-0.59	
Stag	28.32	30.90	-0.01	
Gilt Edged	35.15	37.90	+0.83	
Deposit	24.87	26.17	+0.00	
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund 1		777.04	-0.18	
1982 Series				
UK Equity	488.27	513.96	-8.73	
N Amer Equity	396.84	417.72	-8.37	
Far East Equity	216.49	227.88	+0.17	
Fixed	409.54	431.09	+7.74	
Cash Deposit	241.19	253.88	+0.25	
Property	199.28	209.66	+0.27	
Special Opp	416.20	438.10	+1.20	
Managed	407.00	428.50	-5.03	
Index-Linked Fd	250.14	263.30	+2.06	
Formerly Crown				
Life Mangd Acc	759.40	799.30	-8.40	
Life Fxd Int Acc	511.70	538.60	+9.70	
Life Equity Acc	1160.30	1221.30	-15.90	
Life Money Acc	301.20	360.60	+0.40	
Life Inv Tst Acc	1000.30	1052.70	-12.40	
Life Intl Acc	514.30	541.30	-6.20	
Life High Inc Acc	1187.40	1249.80	-46.20	
Life Property Acc	312.00	329.30	+0.40	



مكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل



ETHAN MILLER

Sparks fly: from next June the whole country will be able to buy power from any supplier it likes — and save cash too

Power comes into play

From Monday, people living in Chester, Hull, Motherwell and Norwich will be given the chance to switch to a different electricity supplier. This is the first wave in the Government's process of de-regulation of the electricity industry, opening the market up to competition. All 26 million electricity consumers will have the opportunity to choose who supplies their power by next June.

Britain's 19 million gas users can already shop around for the best deal on gas bills, after completion of the two-year process of gas de-regulation on May 23 this year. More than three million people have switched from British Gas.

Households in the Man-Web, Yorkshire Electricity, Scottish Power and Eastern Electricity regions will be the first to be offered the savings that should come with de-regulation. But the 750,000 consumers that will take part in this initial phase cannot hope to be substantially better off. Whereas a customer could save up to 20 per cent a year by switching gas supplier, the likely reduction in an electricity bill will be about 5 per cent.

There will also be little price uniformity. Gas suppliers offer between one and three prices depending on where customers live, the amount they use and their previous supplier. In the electricity market, each supplier will be offering a different tariff and standing charge for each region in which it intends to operate. Until all 14 regions are opened to competition, consumers involved in this first phase will only have a choice of Man-Web, Yorkshire, Scottish Power, Eastern and British Gas.

Exactly how much you will save needs to be clarified when the electricity salesman comes calling. It is important that you check both the unit price and standing charge before making a decision. Also be careful to check what method of payment the supplier is using when they quote the savings to be made and always compare like-for-like. So, if you are paying by direct debit with your existing electricity company, look at the tariffs for direct debit of other suppliers.

Additional savings could be made if you opt for one company to provide both gas and electricity to your home. For example, British Gas is offering an extra discount if you buy both fuels. It has already signed up 440,000 people for electricity.

Barclaycard has joined forces with Eastern Group to provide a service exclusively for its customers. Barclaycard members who switch to Eastern Group for their electricity and/or gas needs can pay their bills on a monthly basis on their credit card and pay less for light and heat. Barclaycard says a family in a three-bedroom house could save £140 a year.

However, be careful to do your sums before being pushed into accepting a "duel fuel" package and always check the type of contract you are signing. For example, if it is a rolling contract, there is no time limit. The price of fuel can change, but the consumer *can switch to another provider* without charge.

In the same way that switching gas supplier does not require new gas pipes, there will be no change in the way electricity enters *your home. All* that you are changing is the provider.

A free booklet produced by Offer, the electricity watchdog, explaining electricity competition can be obtained by calling 0800 451 451. PowerGen, the electricity generator, has a deregualtion information line: 08451 203040. Barclaycard Energy can be contacted on 0800 490490. An energy market factsheet is available from Barclaycard on 01235 824414.

LIZANNE ROSE

Your account's in the oven

ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

The marketing departments of the banks work hard to persuade us that we are benefiting from every hi-tech innovation. This week, for example, a microwave banking system was unveiled.

Some time soon, we should be able to move money between accounts using the Internet screen on the front of a microwave oven. While we compare rates of interest and check our balances our supper will be sizzling inside. If depressed by the state of our finances, we will be able forget our woes by switching to TV.

The news that such wizardry is possible is more bewildering than exciting. If banks are eager to offer such time saving devices, then why do they seem to care so little about the delays elsewhere in their operations?

Most bank customers have paused to wonder why it takes five or more days between the paying in of a cheque and its arrival at an account. How, in the age of Bill Gates, do we tolerate an arrangement that Charles Dickens would have thought slowish?

The banks use various arguments to justify these delays, some more convincing than others. Their excuses include the need to send cheques by post between centres, the investment in any other more contemporary method of transmission being prohibitively expensive. But there is always the suspicion that the clearing status quo suits the banks, or they would long ago have made it more efficient.

This does not mean that the banks *are unaware of our dissatisfaction.* Barclays has now acted to forestall pressure for change by permitting its account holders to have instant access to funds before they have cleared. This is a welcome step which should force *competitors to follow suit. But it is not* an act of overwhelming generosity especially as there is a limit of just £1,000 on withdrawals. Barclays customers will only use the instant-access service if they are confident that a cheque will not bounce, because, if it does, they will bear the loss, not Barclays.

Those who have received a cheque from a less than creditworthy party will prefer to trust in the antiquated clearing system, rather than pay the charges levied on a latter day unauthorised overdraft.

Is cash king?

ONE question now preoccupies investors. Should they switch into cash or stay faithful to shares, despite the uncertain outlook?

The issue has been debated by the two investment clubs whose performance reports are Weekend Money's very own docu-soap. *Members of the* Victoria in Truro have concluded that they are running an investment club, not a building society and so will not dispose of their carefully chosen holdings. Maydown Mergers from Londonderry are taking a more cautious view.

Jayesh Manek from Ruislip, manager of the Manek trust, is gloomier still, having switched some 25 per cent of the portfolio into cash. Other managers take the view that it is their obliga*tion to remain invested in the stock* market.

Investors in all trusts may share Mr Manek's pessimism and wish that their managers would also "go liquid". But they should remember that these managers receive a handsome reward each year for their acumen and stock picking ability.

In difficult times, they must prove their worth and earn their fees by seeking out opportunities for their investors. This may be the time to ask your managers *what they are doing to* show why they can do a better job than the building society.

The Legal & General Index-Tracking PEP

Transfer

Transfer your existing PEPs into the Legal & General Index-Tracking PEP for low charges and proven performance

A glance at the table below will show you how the Legal & General All-Share Index-Tracking PEP has outperformed all its major All-Share Index-Tracking competitors since its launch.

Performance this consistently good is a strong argument for transferring your existing PEPs into our Index-Tracking PEP.

In fact, if you had transferred PEPs worth £50,000 into the Legal & General Index-Tracking PEP at launch, it would now be worth £78,025* compared to just £71,609* in the average UK Income and Growth Trust.

Better still, we will let you transfer into our Index-Tracking PEP free[1] – and with no initial charges all of your money is invested at the outset maximising your growth potential.

And with an annual management fee of just 0.5% you're sure to enjoy outstanding value for money – in comparison with a significant majority of other PEP investments.

Remember, transferring your existing PEPs into our Index-Tracking PEP will not affect your PEP allocation for the year – leaving you free to invest any unused part of your £6,000 general PEP allowance in the best performing All-Share Index-Tracking PEP.

NO INITIAL CHARGE TO TRANSFER
0.5% ANNUAL MANAGEMENT CHARGE
NO WITHDRAWAL FEE

INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE SINCE LAUNCH [illegible]

[illegible]	ANNUAL MANAGEMENT CHARGE	GROWTH
Legal & General	0.50%	56.05%
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Average UK Income & Growth Trust		43.21%

Find out more now - call freephone
0500 11 66 22
8am to 8pm weekdays 9am to 5pm weekends
Please quote ref: C4DL47
Visit our web site at www.LandG.com

Now

Transfer your PEPs now for proven performance and low charges

*Your existing PEP provider may charge you an exit fee. *Source: Micropal. 1GIM, on an offer to bid basis based on all PEP charges, with gross income reinvested from 01.11.95 (Legal & General since launch) to 01.09.98. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. From 06.04.99 tax credits on UK dividend distributions will only be able to be reclaimed by PEPs at a reduced rate of 10%. Both capital and income values may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount invested. All comparisons of cost apply to PEPs investing wholly in unit trusts. Full written details are available on request. All statements are correct as at 01.09.98. The Government have announced that contributions can only be made to PEPs until April 1999. From that date a new tax privileged savings vehicle, the Individual Savings Account (ISA) will be available. Legal & General (Direct) Limited. Registered in England No. 2702080. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TP. Representative only of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name.

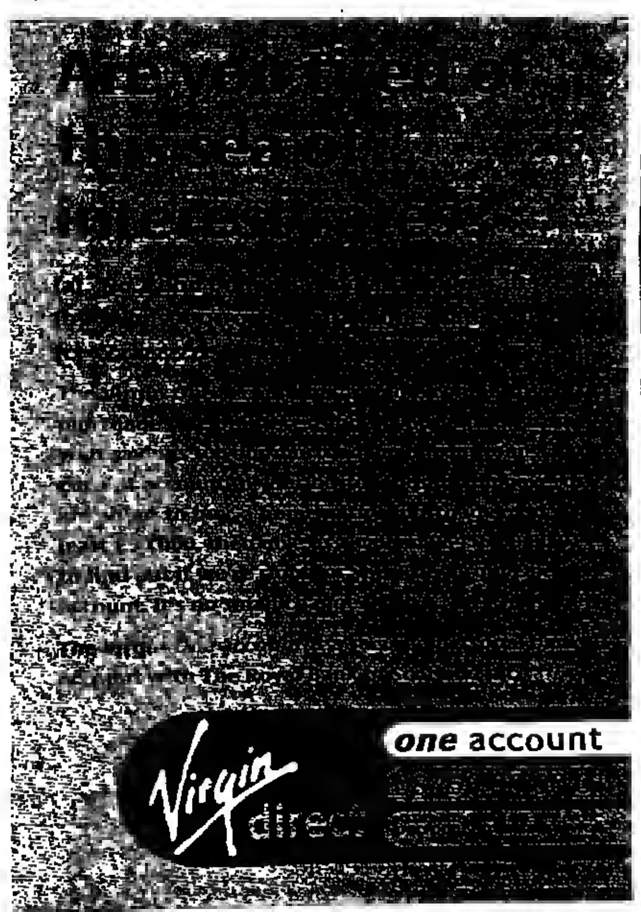
For your protection, calls are usually recorded and randomly monitored.

YES I would like more information about the Legal & General Index-Tracking PEP. Post to: Legal & General (Direct) Limited, FREEPOST SWC0467, Cardiff CF1 1YW C4DL47

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) ____ Forename(s) ____
Address ____
Postcode ____
Date of birth ____ Tel. No. Home ____
Tel. No. Work ____

We may telephone you to make sure information requested has arrived safely. Now and then, we may tell you about other products or services offered by the Legal & General Group of companies that we believe may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this carefully selected information, please tick here ☐

Legal & General



YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. You can phone for further information or a written quotation at any time. You must be aged 18 or over. Life insurance is required. Calls are recorded and may be monitored. Virgin Direct Personal Finance Ltd. Discovery House, Whiting Road, Norwich, NR4 6EJ. Representative only of Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for life insurance, pensions and unit trust business and represents only The Virgin Direct Marketing Group. The Virgin One account is not currently available in Northern Ireland.

DIRECT LINE RATES

PERSONAL LOAN RATES
Direct Line Personal Loans
[illegible] APR

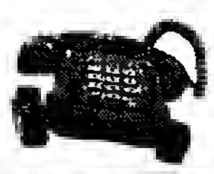
MORTGAGE RATE
Direct Line Standard Variable Mortgage Rate

VARIABLE RATE	APR (variable)
8.19%	[illegible]

SAVINGS RATES
Direct Line Instant Access Account
UP TO [illegible] GROSS

All rates correct at 2nd September 1998.

0181 680 9966 PERSONAL LOANS
0181 649 9099 MORTGAGES
0181 667 1121 SAVINGS



DIRECT LINE FINANCIAL SERVICES
www.directline.co.uk

Call us now quoting ref. NTTB11

For mortgages, security required. Written quotations on request. Subject to status. Mortgages and personal loans available in England, Scotland and Wales.
YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.
For savings, deposits and withdrawals via your bank account – allow 3 working days. *The gross rate is the rate paid without deduction of income tax and is based on annual payment of interest. Calls recorded and randomly monitored. Direct Line and the red telephone on wheels are the trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc, used with its permission.

www.scottishwidows.co.uk

Pensions by phone.

You can pick up the phone and get pensions information or advice and even set up a plan, quickly and without fuss.

Call, 8am-10pm, 7 days a week quoting ref: 288B946
0345 6789 10
or talk to your Independent Financial Adviser.

For your protection, your calls to Scottish Widows may be recorded or monitored and information or advice will only be provided on Scottish Widows products. Issued by Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.

The InvestIT Saving for Children Plan

"My Dad didn't invest in InvestIT."

When she reaches 18, Daddy's little girl is going to be very cross with him indeed.

Not to mention a lot worse off financially.

Because had he taken advantage of Edinburgh Fund Managers Saving for Children Plan, she could have relied on a savings plan that, over the last 10 years, has returned almost twice as much as the average Building Society highest rate account.*

So come her 18th birthday, she'd have had a very tidy sum available for university, a car, a deposit for a flat, whatever.

As savings plans go, you'll find InvestIT remarkably flexible. With a range of 13 different investment trusts it offers plenty of choice.

You can invest as little as £20 a month, or put in lump sums from £150 upwards. And even better, the Taxman won't get a penny of it. (Oh, joy!)

What's more with InvestIT, there's no initial charge, no administration charge and no exit charge.†

To invest in your child's future, call the number below.

Otherwise, it might end in tears.

Freephone
0800 838 993
Quoting reference: SAV/T/03

Edinburgh Fund Managers plc is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of investments, and the income from them, may fall as well as rise and investors may not get back their original investment. *Source Standard & Poor's Micropal. £1000 invested 01/07/88 to 01/07/98, mid to mid, net income re-invested. †Government stamp duty of 0.5% and market makers spread are payable on all purchased shares. The taxation benefits are based on using the child's annual personal allowances. Rates of tax and relief may be changed by future legislation. A Building Society Account is not exposed to stock market risks and provides, in the case of the average account, instant access to capital.

Edinburgh
FUND MANAGERS
www.edfd.com

For more information please return to: FREEPOST, Edinburgh Fund Managers, Donaldson House, 97 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 0PO.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode _____ SAV/T/03

Patrick Collinson says you can save money by shopping around for a stockbroker

Sold: A broker at the Birmingham offices of Charles Schwab completes an order for stock — no frills telephone services can offer some of the best value -for- money deals

As prices fall, save on dealing

Don't buy or sell shares in a panic. Shopping around the rapidly growing number of no-frills sharedealing services can save you hundreds of pounds in charges.

Next month Halifax unveils its new sharedealing service which promises to be among the lowest cost providers. Meanwhile two of its big rivals, NatWest Stockbrokers and Barclays Stockbrokers, plan to launch Internet-based dealing services in the next two months.

But beware a creeping rise in share dealing prices over the past 18 months and worsening "spreads" on shares. Service and administration problems have plagued low-cost brokers, resulting in one of the biggest low-cost brokers, Fidelity Brokerage, closing down nine months ago. Long queues at call centres, especially during a major privatisation or demutualisation, are unfortunately still common.

Customers can even be fined for failing to meet strict deadlines for providing share certificates on time, with extra costs for every reminder letter sent. The cost of buying or selling shares varies enormously depending on which service is used. A traditional City broking service can run into thousands of pounds a year while the cheapest telephone or Internet execution-only services start at £10 a trade.

The rule-of-thumb is that the more advice you require, the higher the cost of dealing. Choosing the right sharedealing service depends on your confidence and experience as an investor, and how much money you have to invest. Broadly-speaking, investors with £100,000 tend to be offered specialised portfolio management services, while people with between £10,000 and £100,000 opt for cheaper advisory services. Under £10,000 are the no-frills, low-cost brokers.

PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT:
Discretionary or portfolio management brokers will manage a portfolio of shares on your behalf, buying and selling when they see fit. Normally this service is available only to people with £100,000 or more to invest. NatWest Stockbrokers, for example, offers a discretionary service which levies a 1 per cent charge every year on the sum managed, plus dealing charges on top. For a directory and guide to private client stockbrokers, contact the Association of Private Client Investment Managers and Stockbrokers, Apcims, 112 Middlesex Street, London E1 7HY.

HOW LOW COST SHAREDEALERS COMPARE

Value of share deal	Charles Schwab*	Barclays Sharedeal	NatWest Brokerline	Yorkshare
£1,000	£25.00	£ 17.50	£20.00	£14.50
£2,000	£30.00	£ 30.00	£20.00	£20.00
£3,000	£45.00	£ 45.00	£30.00	£28.00
£4,000	£52.50	£ 60.00	£40.00	£36.00
£5,000	£60.00	£ 75.00	£51.00	£38.00
£10,000	£75.00	£117.50	£56.00	£48.00

0.5% stamp duty is added to all share purchases (not sales). *Figures are for Telephone Certificated dealing. Lower charges apply on MarketMaster and Frequent Trader non-certificated dealing.

ADVISORY AND DEALING SERVICES:
The next level down is the advisory service in which a broker gives advice on request, but the final investment decisions are left to the customer. Typically this is offered by mid-sized brokerages such as Killik & Co. The firm assesses a client's investment objectives, tax situation, attitude to risk and income requirements. It offers research information on stocks, a guide on whether a share is a buy, sell or hold, plus strategic advice on the investor's overall portfolio.

Killik's annual charge is only £10, but each transaction costs 1.65 per cent of the amount bought or sold, with a minimum charge of £40. All costs and charges have to be disclosed in a client agreement letter which regulators require be sent to all customers. One sign of creeping costs is, however, the recent decision by Killik to introduce a compliance fee of £2.50 on every transaction to cover growing regulatory costs. Remember, you also have to pay stamp duty of 0.5 per cent on all shares bought.

Signing up to a broking service is not a passport for budding Warren Buffets or George Soroses to wildly speculate with money they do not have. Typically investors have to put up a cash float for buying and selling shares, although the broker will manage it to produce a return similar to bank or building society rates.

LOW COST BROKERS:
The low-cost brokers do not offer any advice on what shares you should buy or sell. They simply act as an execution-only transaction service, finding the best price for your shares, and will usually accept or send payments by direct debit or credit into your bank account. If you pay without a direct debit, you must immediately send payment as soon as the broker sends you a contract note. Yorkshare, part of Yorkshire Building Society, instituted fines last September of £40 for failing to meet deadlines for documentation, plus a further £15 every time a Yorkshare employee has to send a letter or make a chasing telephone call. Low cost brokers fall into three categories: high street share shops, telephone brokers and Internet brokers.

HIGH STREET SHARE SHOPS:
NatWest is the leading high street bank in providing a walk-in, branch-based sharedealing service. It operates the service in 290 branches, and customers do not have to hold accounts with the bank. All you need is a share certificate if selling, or a cheque or bank account details when buying. Charges are 1 per cent on the first £4,000 and 0.1 per cent thereafter. No other major bank offers a walk-in branch service, but US broker Edward Jones plans a 400-branch network of share shops across the UK next year.

TELEPHONE-ONLY BROKERS:
This is the biggest sector of the low-cost broker market, with Charles Schwab (formerly Sharelink), Barclays Stockbrokers and NatWest Brokerline the main players. Halifax will announce its service and charges in mid-October. The table compares the prices each charge for sharedealing. Even among the low-cost brokers, prices can vary widely. For example, Barclays Stockbrokers' Sharedeal service is cheap for very small parcels of shares, but becomes uncompetitive on trades much above £4,000.

Justin Urquhart Stewart of Barclays Stockbrokers says the majority of trades are below £4,000, averaging £3,000 for purchases and around £1,000 for sales. Changes in charges can be frequent as the brokers jockey for market share. Charles Schwab, for example, doubled its minimum charge on its Marketmaster service from £10 to £20 earlier this year.

The number of add-on services is limited, but it is worth shopping around for the extra bells and whistles each offer. This week NatWest launched a telephone share information line offering "real-time" share price quotes and opinions on over 100 popular UK shares. Schwab offers a range of telephone services, including a touch-tone system in which you never actually speak to the dealer. Telephone brokers can also keep on hold maximum and minimum prices at which you are prepared to buy or sell a share.

All calls to telephone brokers are recorded to minimise disputes. Richard Hunter, head of dealing services at NatWest, said: "If it is our error, we will fully reinstate the customer. If it is a client error, we will do whatever we can do to help out, correcting the trade on a nil commission basis." One issue for investors is deciding whether to keep share certificates at home or leave them in the hands of the broker, using a "nominee" account. Most prefer the security of keeping a certificate in their hands, but certificates must be sent to a broker immediately after a deal is executed. If a certificate is lost, it can be replaced by writing to the company registrar, but this will normally incur a fee of about £25.

INTERNET BROKERS:
When Wall Street plunged 500 points on August 31, one in four of the trades came through Internet investors, and US television and newspapers are peppered with adverts for net brokers such as Schwab, E*Trade and Ameritrade.

On-line investing in the UK is, however, only in its infancy. Schwab launched its UK Internet trading site in April, and NatWest and Barclays plan launches before the end of 1998. Other sites already operating include FasTrade (www.fastrade.co.uk), operated by Torrie & Co and StockTrade (www.esi.co.uk/trading/stocktrade) operated by Brewin Dolphin. Mr Urquhart Stewart said: "It's growing enormously, but most of the services on offer so far are glorified e-mail. It's still slower than making the phonecall yourself."

BUY-BUY PEPS

Alas, soon it will be bye-bye to PEPs. However, the good news is that you can still make an investment of up to £9,000 tax free. Even better yet, buy through Chelsea Financial and you will get a great deal too. As well as the PEPs illustrated above, we handle all the leading brands, all of which are discounted. Equally important, our administration is the most efficient to be found anywhere. We will also keep you up-to-date with regular in-depth Information Sheets to help you make a considered decision.

Chelsea Financial is a no frills, execution only service for the cost conscious PEP investor and is the UK's oldest and best discount broker. As well as the most respected. To date, we have given away a staggering £12 million in discounts.

So don't miss out on this great investment opportunity. For more information, call us or return the coupon.

CHELSEA FINANCIAL SERVICES
THE ONE ONE STOP INVESTMENT SHOP
Chelsea Financial Services PLC, FREEPOST, 2/1 Harbour Yard, Chelsea Harbour, London SW10 0YZ. Tel: 0171 351 6022

REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY IF IN DOUBT ABOUT YOUR INVESTMENT NEEDS YOU SHOULD OBTAIN EXPERT ADVICE. THE VALUE OF INVESTMENTS AND THE INCOME FROM THEM CAN FALL AS WELL AS RISE.

To Chelsea Financial Services, FREEPOST, 2/1 Harbour Yard, Chelsea Harbour, London SW10 0YZ. I would like to know more about discounted PEPs.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____ TS12/9/98

Foreign & Colonial invented the investment trust in 1868 "to give the investor of moderate means the same advantages as the large capitalist".

Get rich slow.

Growth of £1,000 invested in 1978

	Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust PLC	Unit Trust Average	Investment Trust Average
1978	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
1983	£2,573	£2,304	£2,276
1988	£6,617	£5,360	£5,316
1993	£15,616	£8,575	£8,379
1998	£28,135	£14,226	£13,068

Many consign their savings to the low returns of a deposit account, wary of stockmarket ups and downs.

But whilst success rarely comes overnight, in the long run stocks and shares have outperformed other types of saving and investment.

Investing in them through investment trusts adds flexibility and dilutes risk by spreading money across stocks, markets and sectors; an idea we invented some 130 years ago.

Today, our Private Investor Plan savings scheme opens the door to one of the best performance records in the industry. Invest from just £25 a month or lump sums from £250 Call today.

For a free brochure,
Phone 0181 880 8120.
Fax 0181 211 8777
any time, stating the coupon code. Alternatively, visit our website at www.fandc.co.uk or return the coupon.

To. Foreign & Colonial Management Ltd, PO Box 11020, London N4 1UA.
PLEASE PRINT
Title Initial Surname _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ Code P230A

Foreign & Colonial

The value of shares and the income from them can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the full amount invested. Past performance is no guide to the future. All figures sourced Standard & Poor's Micropal: 30.06.78-30.06.98. Investment trust figures basis: mid-market prices, net income reinvested, incl. historical 3.5% notional expenses. (Actual Plan charges: 0.2% commission and 0.5% Govt. Stamp Duty). Unit trust figures basis: offer to offer, net income reinvested, incl. historical 6.5% notional expenses. Foreign & Colonial Management Limited (regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority) or its subsidiaries are the Managers of the investment trusts.

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12 1998

As prices fall, the cash versus equities debate comes to the fore again

Turning backs on the market: Maydown Mergers members (from left) Jim Wray, Mike Carroll and Nigel Bevington

Investors divided

The crisis of a tumbling stock market sharply divides investors. There are those who feel they should cut their losses and bail out and those who see it as a wonderful opportunity to buy fundamentally sound stocks at bargain-basement prices.

As *The Times* pays another of its regular visits to two investment clubs — The Victoria Investment Club in Truro, Cornwall, and the Maydown Mergers Investment Club in Londonderry, Northern Ireland — a fierce debate is raging between the bulls and the bears. Both clubs have exercised stop losses on a number of shares in their portfolios and both are sitting on relatively large piles of cash waiting for the market to settle or at least present some bargains.

The last time we visited them in July, the FTSE 100 index had recovered strongly, nearly reaching the 6,200 mark. Since then the market has bounced down and down, falling to below 5,200.

Mike Carroll, chairman of the Maydown Mergers, says: "We've got £6,500 in cash. The big question is, when do we get back into the market? I suspect we'll buy some more stocks at our next meeting on Tuesday. We'll be looking for recession-proof stocksthat trade in essentials."

In the meantime the Mergers have maintained their high-risk approach and invested £1,500 in Gartmore's Irish Smaller Companies investment trust, and £1,500 in Mercury's European Warrants fund

. Both these investments are showing losses, but the club sees them as a long-term punt and is not concerned.

Overall, the Mergers are bearish about the world economy, but buying stocks is what an investment club is set up to do, so they feel there is little point holding on to cash for long.

They have split themselves up into four sub-groups of three, each expected to come up with its own share recommendations for the monthly meeting.

Each group has £1,500 to spend on its preferred stock. Mr Carrol thinks the new structure introduces some competition and provides an incentive for passive members to become more involved.

Even the Victoria Investment Club, normally untroubled by the vagaries of the world's markets, has taken a bit of a battering. Since our last visit four stocks have been jettisoned: RPS Group, Springwood, Televisinn Corporation and SDX Business Systems. The Victorians are now sitting on over £9,000 in cash.

Now three new stocks have been added to the portfolio: Ferraris, an engineering company specialising in medical equipment; Riva, a store management systems company; and Latchways, which makes "fall arrest" equipment. They also increased their shareholding in Albemarle & Bond, the pawnbroker and cheque encashment company.

Derek Richards, chairman, says: "Our meeting last Tuesday was quite lively. Some members think we are heading for a world recession and want to hold on to cash. Others believe the companies we've invested in are basically sound.

"My view is that we're an investment club not a building society. There are some very reasonable prices around."

By following the old adage "buy low, sell high" private investors always run the risk of doing exactly the opposite if they get caught up in the panic induced by a falling market. "Steady as she goes" is more fitting for our two investment clubs.

MATTHEW WALL

HOW THE CLUBS PERFORMED

MAYDOWN MERGERS INVESTMENT CLUB
September 7, 1998: portfolio worth £5,649.86

	Shares/units	Price now	Profit/loss (£)
Gartmore Irish Smaller Cos.	802	151.00p	-316.22
Chiroscience	113	212.50p	-320.90
Go-Ahead Group	300	671.50p	537.65
Mercury European Warrants	1734	58.50p	-513.02
Pace Micro	1746	67.00p	150.81
NOTIONAL LOSS		TOTAL	£461.68

VICTORIA INVESTMENT CLUB
September 9, 1998: portfolio worth £20,898.98

	Shares/units	Price now	Profit/loss (£)
Albermarle	3973	73.50p	-79.27
Dolphin Packaging	859	200.50p	222.32
Ferraris	1342	146.75p	-30.62
Isotron	460	520.00p	395.67
Latchways	700	265.00p	-197.58
Media Business Group	2000	108.00p	939
Mice Group	16630	18.25p	1,334.98
Orbis	2409	45.50p	-303.90
Riva	1963	75.00p	-27.75
Taylor Nelson	2006	113.50p	905.46
NOTIONAL PROFIT		TOTAL	£3,158.33

Manek fund now has 25% held in cash

Jayesh Manek, the Ruislip chemist who twice won *The Sunday Times* fantasy investment league and now manages the £100 million Manek Growth Fund, is dumping shares in favour of cash on fears that the stock market will not recover until at least the end of the year.

Nearly 25 per cent of the fund is now held in cash, compared with less than 5 per cent at other fund managers such as M&G.

The switch to cash follows a sharp fall in performance of the fund, which has 22,000 small investors. After racing up to fourth position in its sector just months after its launch in December last year, the fund has recently plummeted to the bottom quartile of UK growth funds.

The fund has been battered by hefty falls in the small and mid-cap growth stocks in which it specialises. Buyers paid 99p a unit in December but the bid price has since fallen to 91p, a drop of 8 per cent.

Mr Manek expects worse to come, and believes that the US market in particular remains seriously overvalued. "I think the trend is still down and we will still see quite a lot of fallout before it stabilises. I expect a lot of volatility and I do not see a broader recovery until at least the end of the year."

His current strategy is to sell off shares in favour of cash so that he can buy after prices bottom out. He said: "I am retaining the core portfolio, but have started selling some of the stocks that have been affected by the downturn and I now hold a cash position of around 24-25 per cent. It's best to sell now and position myself for when the recovery begins."

The core portfolio includes stocks such as Eidos and Iceland, but Mr Manek is steering clear of property and cyclical stocks in favour of support services and leisure stocks.

Jayesh Manek insists that US stocks remain overvalued

Mr Manek's switch to cash has surprised other investment managers, who rarely take their cash positions so high. Rachel Medill, M&G spokeswoman, said: "We would never take a cash position in our unit trusts to such a level. We never have more than 5 per cent in cash as we believe people give us money to invest rather leave on deposit. Upturns in markets can be so swift that you can easily miss out if you are in cash."

A spokesman for the Financial Services Authority also expressed surprise at the level of cash holding. Unit trust rules do not specify a maximum cash holding in a unit trust, but SIB rule 5.6.1 says the level of cash held should only be at a level "necessary in order to enable redemption of units and efficient management of the scheme". The regulator's spokesman said that funds "being held in a liquid form is not what investors would expect from a unit trust".

Despite the fund's recent underperformance, very few of the small investors who bought at launch have pulled out, says Mr Manek. "Some of the early investors may be disappointed, but it must be looked at in a medium to long-term perspective," he said.

Mr Manek's medium-term view is that Wall Street has overshot its trend growth line since 1987 and needs to fall back some way further before value appears. "There is a huge gap between where the Dow is and where the trend line says it should be." The same trend lines suggest the FTSE is also still overvalued despite the recent market correction, but Mr Manek believes that the UK and Europe offer fundamentally better value than Wall Street.

PATRICK COLLINSON

The Corporate Bond PEP

6.7%* pa tax free

An interest rate of 8.3% gross pa would be required in a bank or building society deposit account to achieve 6.7% net pa for a basic rate taxpayer

Find out more now – call freephone 0500 11 66 22

9am to 8pm weekdays, 9am to 5pm weekends.

Please quote ref: C7DL27

Legal & General

We can make your personal loan more affordable

Our Personal Loan interest rates are still at their lowest ever. In fact, if you were to take out a Marks & Spencer Personal Loan it could cut the cost of borrowing.

- You may apply to borrow up to £10,000, to spend exactly as you wish.
- We'll usually give you a decision over the phone in around 10 minutes.
- The interest rates are fixed for the duration of your loan.
- You may spread the repayments over any period up to 84 months.
- Our lowest ever Personal Loan rates start from 12.9% APR including a 1% APR discount when you take out Personal Loan Protection.

Call 0800 363 409

Quoting reference TI03

Lines are open Monday to Friday between 8.00am and 8.30pm and Saturday between 8.00am and 5.30pm.

http://www.marks-and-spencer.co.uk/financial services

MARKS & SPENCER FINANCIAL SERVICES

Personal Loans

Written quotations available on request from: Marks and Spencer Financial Services Limited, Kings Meadow, Chester Business Park, Chester CH99 9FB. Typical Example: Borrow £10,000 and make 48 monthly repayments of £304.05. Total repayable would be £14,594.40 including Personal Loan Protection. 12.9% APR. These are the lowest rates offered by M&SFS, with the exception of Premier Loan. Marks & Spencer Financial Services Personal Loan Protection is underwritten by Cornhill Insurance plc. Registered Office: Michael House, Baker Street, London W1A 1DN. Registered in England No. 1772585. A subsidiary of Marks and Spencer plc.

Gartmore Not different, exceptional.

"Escapism. One of your better investments."

While things at home slow down, you can accelerate around the World with the Gartmore Global PEP.

For performance, our choice of top quartile funds includes*:

American Emerging Growth Fund	1st
European Selected Opportunities Fund	1st
International Growth Fund	1st
UK Capital Growth Fund	1st
UK Smaller Companies Fund	1st

Benefit now from a final year of investment in a tax free PEP.

The Gartmore Global PEP.

Call for a brochure 0800 731 3513

E-mail: helpline@gartmore.com web: www.iii.co.uk/gartmore

For a Gartmore Global PEP brochure, return to: Investor Services, Gartmore Investment Limited, Gartmore House, PO Box 65, 16-18 Monument Street, London EC3R 8QQ. T 12.8.98

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

Invest On-line is a trading name of Royal & SunAlliance Unit Trust Management Limited, registered in England with No. 2702242, a member of the Royal & SunAlliance Life & Pensions Marketing Group. The registered office is 1 Bartholomew Lane, London EC2N 2AB. Members of the Royal & Sun Alliance Marketing Group are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority, solely for life assurance, pension and unit trust business, and by IMRO. For your security all calls are recorded. The value of units, and the income from them, can go down as well as up. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. *Source: Micropal. Bid to bid, net income reinvested. The top performing trust in Sector L&95 - 3.8.98 and L&94 - 3.8.98. Best Investment Manager 1997, Standard & Poor's Micropal Awards. †Source: Micropal. Offer to bid, gross income reinvested. 2.8.93 - 3.8.98. **Source Micropal, refers to the performance of the Portfolio Trust, offer to bid, gross income reinvested 15.2.88-3.8.98, available as a PEP since L&95. These figures assume the tax free benefits have been available throughout.

THE PORTFOLIO PEP

218%**
GROWTH SINCE LAUNCH

A top performing PEP* with no entry charge.

If you are looking for an investment that offers a consistently excellent performance track record with the added benefit of low charges then look no further than the Portfolio PEP.

Since launch it has grown by 218%.**

Invest On-line, the direct investment centre of Royal & SunAlliance has reduced the Portfolio PEP's initial entry charge to 0% (bid/offer spread 0.8%) until 22nd September 1998.

It invests in the top performing Royal & Sun Alliance Portfolio Trust which spreads its holdings in unit trusts invested across the UK, Europe, North America and the Far East.

There is no annual management charge other than the charges of those trusts in which the Portfolio Trust invests (currently 1-1.5%), and no exit charge either.

To take advantage of this offer, call free now or complete the coupon below for full details.

TALK TO US ON
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 8AM-10PM
www.invest-on-line.co.uk
FAX No: 01252 818744
E MAIL: invest@rsaonline.co.uk

INVEST ON-LINE

CODE:CVA Complete and return to Invest On-line, FREEPOST 3479, Reading, Berkshire RG10 9ZZ.
Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms ___ Forename ___
Surname ___
Address ___
___ Postcode ___
Tel(daytime) ___ (home) ___
Date of birth __/__/__ Yes, please send me details of the Portfolio PEP ☐ Portfolio Trust ☐

Break free from the bonds of your mortgage

Gavin Lumsden on why Britain could soon witness a profound change in the way people handle their money

Homeowners across the land are making plans to escape from the burden of their mortgages after the Bank of England's decision not to cut interest rates on Thursday.

By holding base rates at 7.45 per cent the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee has dashed the hopes of millions of homeowners who had expected the cost of their mortgages would start coming down after five interest rate rises since last year's general election.

Hard-pressed homeowners could now be tempted to bite the bullet and switch to lenders who allow them to increase their payments so they can get out of hock as quickly as possible.

With stock markets in turmoil and base rates poised to slide to 3 per cent in the next two years, experts are saying that for most people the best financial returns will come from simply paying off their debts as quickly as possible.

This could herald a profound change in the way the British public handles its money. As interest rates collapse to postwar lows, many savings accounts — which on average are paying only 4 per cent net — will become unviable and be withdrawn.

At this point savers will be left with two options: have fun and blow the loot on a huge spending spree on holidays and in the high street; or, more boringly, pay off their debts and migrate to a new generation of savings products which combine some of the returns from the stock market with total capital security. However, this last option is by no means certain. Barclays's attempt to plug the savings gap with B2 and its protected Advanced Savings Account is widely held to have been a dismal failure and attracted very few savers.

Lenders, however, are having a bit more success. An increasing number of borrowers are turning to a new range of flexible and penalty-free loans which allow them to make additional lump sum payments.

Research has shown that homeowners who can afford to consistently overpay on their loans can save themselves thousands of pounds in unpaid interest and finish their mortgage years ahead of schedule.

For example, someone paying £583 a month on a 25-year £70,000 mortgage charging 8.1 per cent interest could pay off the debt five years early and save £24,000 in interest by adding £50 to the monthly payment.

If the same person could stretch to an extra £100 each month it would mean a £38,000 saving in interest and finish the loan more than seven years early. For a basic-rate taxpayer these savings are equivalent to 10.4 per cent compound interest on savings. For higher-rate taxpayers the savings represent a staggering 13.5 per cent return.

Ray Boulger of John Charcol, the mortgage adviser, said: "Paying back a mortgage is a totally risk-free return which is likely to be significantly better than a comparable investment. The stock market is unlikely to give as high a return and will give a higher degree of risk. The only exception, perhaps, for higher-rate taxpayers is making extra contributions to their pension, which will get 40 per cent tax relief."

For borrowers who are serious about reducing their credit levels flexible mortgages should be their first port of call. Several lenders, such as Bank of Scotland and Virgin, have developed these specialist home loans in response to growing demand from the self-employed and contract workers.

With flexible mortgages borrowers can vary the amount they pay to lenders each month and can even take a payment holiday during a period of unemployment or pregnancy. Interest is calculated either on a daily or a monthly basis so borrowers who do pay more will quickly see a reduction in their charges.

In addition, most flexible lenders allow borrowers to build up a reserve of money from their overpayments which they can withdraw again when needed. Some "current account mortgages" even provide chequebooks and cash cards for this purpose. The advantage of this is that money held in reserve grows at the lender's interest rate. When it is withdrawn it effectively becomes a new loan. Here the lender's rate will compare favourably with the interest charged on most personal loans.

However, until now most borrowers have held back from flexible mortgages because lenders have insisted on charging their standard variable rates of interest. Making an overpayment on an 8.5 per cent mortgage actually saves you less money than if you stuck with normal payments on a mortgage charging a fixed level of 6.5 per cent interest.

All this is about to change. First Active Financial, formerly known as Mortgage Trust, a pioneer of flexible mortgages, has just launched a compelling range of capped loans which will ensure your interest never rises above between 7.99 per cent and 8.24 per cent over two years. There are no mortgage indemnity guarantee fees and you can make any number of overpayments.

The Woolwich has enhanced its flexible Open Plan by offering a three-year capped rate at 6.25 per cent and a five-year rate fixed at 6.75 per cent. Borrowers who take either of these can repay up to 10 per cent of their mortgage each year with no penalty.

The Alliance & Leicester is also planning to launch a flexible mortgage soon. This will allow borrowers complete freedom in varying their payments and will allow them to withdraw overpayments. It will be a vast improvement on its existing no-repayment fee mortgage, which only allows borrowers to make overpayments of more than £500.

Patrick Bunton, of London & Country, said: "That has got to be good news. In an ideal world there would be no nasty lock-in periods and interest would be calculated daily."

Borrowers who find the new-fangled flexible loans offputting can achieve much the same savings with more traditional mortgages. Both Halifax and Nationwide, for example, have abolished early redemption penalties on a range of their discounted mortgages. This means you can make a partial repayment at any time.

Most other lenders will only let you pay an extra lump sum into the mortgage once you have passed through their initial lock-in period. If you find this frustrating you can always salt the money into a savings account — while they still exist — and make the payment later.

Xena the warrior princess and her trusty sidekick Gabrielle would not have stood idly by as interest rates rose

You may not see a return on a Virgin Growth PEP for several years.

If you're looking for a quick return on your investment, a Virgin Growth PEP isn't for you. Sorry about that.
But if one of your virtues is patience and you can wait at least 5 years, you'll find our PEP could be wonderful together.

Thank you for your patience.

Virgin direct
growth PEP

Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. The price of units and any income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount you invest. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. You can invest in a PEP right up until 5 April 1999 when they will attract the same tax benefits as the new Individual Savings Account. All calls are recorded and randomly monitored.

Barclays plans to bring you cash in a flash

Barclays this week launched a new initiative that effectively slashes the cheque clearance time for 10 million of its customers.

From the beginning of next month, customers who pay in cheques worth up to £1,000 will have instant access to their funds, even though the cheques themselves still have to go through the inter-bank clearing process. The bank claimed that it was introducing the initiative in response to demand from customers.

At the moment, cheques take between three and five days to clear, depending on the bank. For instance, cheques with Midland usually take three days to clear, while cheques with Lloyds TSB take longer.

The Barclays initiative is part of a new drive by the bank towards instant banking. Other changes include being able to transfer money instantly to third parties that have Barclays accounts, and being able to pay Barclaycard bills instantly. The new initiative will be especially beneficial to the nearly two million people who receive their wages by cheque each month.

The other banks poured scorn on the Barclays initiative, and claimed that they had no plans to follow suit. They pointed out that the Barclays move did put customers at risk. If the cheque bounces after the customer has withdrawn the funds, then the customer was liable for the money.

Barclays said that its mailing to 10 million customers made it fundamentally clear that they were responsible for any bounced cheques.

Anthony Frost, Natwest, said: "We at Natwest will do that for customers at the discretion of the branch. Clearing protects the customer from an unauthorised overdraft. The customers have no control. Potentially, 1 or 2 per cent of cheques are bounced."

Gary Hoffman, the chief executive of UK retail banking at Barclays, said: "It is up to the customer to ensure that the cheque will not bounce."

At the moment, all cheques have to go through the Bank of England clearing system, and have to be physically transferred by post between the banks.

The new service will not be available for all Barclays customers. Mr Hoffman said that around 5 per cent of the bank's customers would not be able to benefit from the service as their accounts were considered to be risky — that is, they were the recipients of too many bounced cheques.

Mr Hoffman said: "The cheque clearing cycle is currently a fact of life, but this initiative gives Barclays personal customers more access, control and choice over their day-to-day banking."

Bob Rankine from Barclays said it had taken the initiative to effectively cut clearing times, because the current archaic system looked as though it would remain in place for some time. He said that about 1 per cent of cheques bounced, worth some £2 million a week.

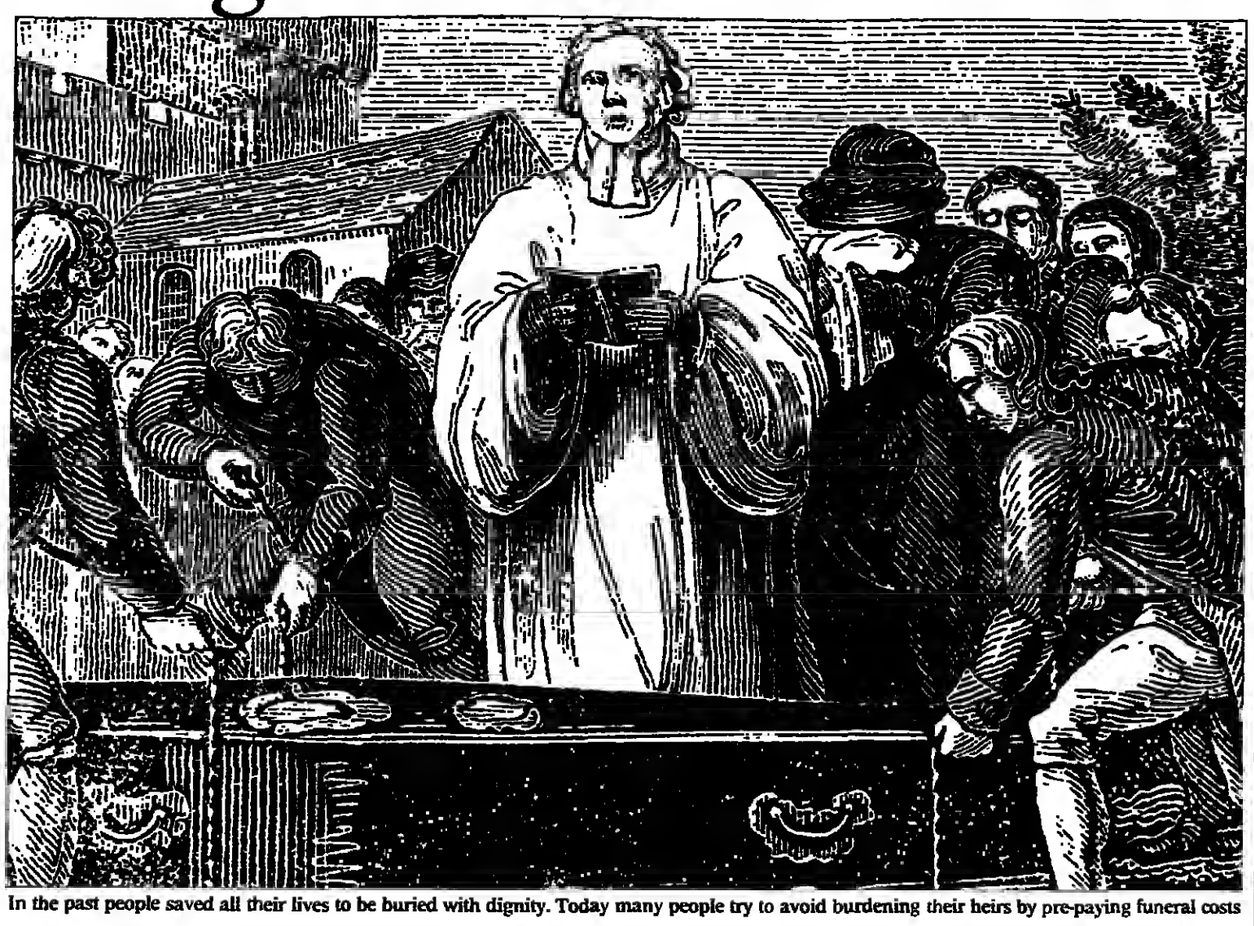
CAROLINE MERRELL

EXCLUSIVE OFFER
8.01%
P.A. GROSS VARIABLE
WITH A TOP 20 MUTUAL BUILDING SOCIETY
A one year account guaranteed to beat the Bank of England Base Rate for 2½ years!
Minimum investment £10,000.
CALL NOW FOR DETAILS
0800 526 093
FREEPHONE LINES OPEN 24 HOURS
CHASE DE VERE
INVESTMENTS PLC
REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY
PLEASE NOTE THE PIA DOES NOT REGULATE BUILDING SOCIETY ACCOUNTS.

هكذا من الأهل

Providing for the inevitable

Jill Insley reports on the growing market for pre-paid funerals and looks at what is on offer for those seeking peace of mind



In the past people saved all their lives to be buried with dignity. Today many people try to avoid burdening their heirs by pre-paying funeral costs

Pre-paid funeral plans have received appalling publicity over the past few years. One firm closed down, leaving several funeral bills unpaid. Others have been accused by the Office of Fair Trading of using hard sell techniques to pressure the elderly and vulnerable into buying plans.

Despite these problems, the popularity of schemes to pre-arrange and pay for one's own funeral has grown rapidly. More than 250,000 people have bought plans, and the industry estimates that sales will increase to seven million over the next few years. Advanced Planning, which entered the market just a year ago, has already sold 20,000 plans.

Advanced Planning is a joint venture between Service Corporation International (SCI), one of the leading pre-arranged funeral plan companies in the United States, and Age Concern, the charity for the elderly. For each plan sold, Age Concern receives an average of £24 in profits.

Age Concern's decision to set up its own funeral plan company followed the Office of Fair Trading's severe criticism of the methods used by several companies to sell their plans.

Sir Bryan Carsberg, who was then Director-General of Fair Trading, said that plan providers and funeral directors should be prohibited from unsolicited marketing in nursing homes and hospital wards, and from offering incentives to charities such as Age Concern for endorsing their plans.

Although Age Concern only owns 25 per cent of Advanced Planning, all decisions taken by the company's five directors must be agreed unanimously, allowing the charity to maintain control over the type of plans offered and the way they are sold.

The idea is quite simple. You choose a funeral now and pay a premium equivalent to the amount it would cost at today's prices, either in one lump sum or as a monthly instalment. The money is invested in an independently managed trust fund designed to keep pace with inflation. Advanced Planning guarantees to pay the full cost of the funeral director's services and the normal disbursement costs, regardless of when you die.

Advanced Planning offers three types of funeral plan. The Regular Plan at £1,060 is the cheapest version, providing a simple coffin and a hearse to carry it to the crematorium or cemetery. The Select Plan at £1,335 provides a quality wood-effect coffin, and one limousine as well as the hearse. Family members are also able to view the body during normal business hours. The Regency is the most expensive plan, costing £1,735. This provides a wood veneer coffin, two limousines as well as the hearse, and allows family viewing of the deceased at any time by appointment.

Applicants who buy their plans through one of the 200 local Age Concern groups receive a £25 discount. Customers who want to pull out of the plan will receive a refund of the money originally paid but none of the growth accumulated in the meantime.

All three plans incorporate £310 to cover cremation disbursements — the cost of a service at the local crematorium and the doctor's and minister's fees. The cost of being buried is usually higher and applicants can either pay an additional premium themselves or leave their relatives to make up the difference.

Until this month, Advanced Planning has limited the choice of funeral directors to the 580 branches of SCI and 70 independent firms to ensure consistent quality of service. But the company has just decided to allow customers a free choice of independent funeral directors, provided the one they choose belongs to one of the funeral industry's recognised trade associations and is prepared to guarantee carrying out the funeral.

However, about 2,000 independent funeral directors sell plans for another pre-arranged funeral plan company called Golden Charter, and some may be unwilling to act for another company.

John Delves, of Albert Parr & Sons in Penge, says Golden Charter offers very competitive prices and a wide choice, enabling customers to personalise their funerals to a much greater degree. "If you want a horse drawn carriage or a jazz band, you can add it on to one of the four plans through the Select Reserve Option," he says.

Costs for the Golden Charter plans range from £1,050 for the most basic funeral (very similar to Advanced Planning's Regular Plan) through to £2,100 for the Golden Approach (similar to Advanced Planning's Regency Plan with the exception that the coffin is solid wood). The cost of optional extras will be calculated at outset and added to the premium.

The Co-operative Funeral Bond takes flexibility one stage further, enabling customers to tailor-make their funeral arrangements from scratch. Once the details are decided, the arrangements are costed, paid for and the premiums invested in a trust fund like the other schemes.

Peter Wills, manager of Advanced Planning, says his company's customers can also personalise their funerals, but accepts that someone who wants to add many different details may be better off approaching an independent funeral director.

The Advanced Planning trust fund is conservatively managed, with the vast majority of the money being held as cash or invested in gilts and bonds. Independent financial advisers might reasonably be expected to recommend people to invest their money in equity-based savings schemes with the aim not only of paying for their funeral but also providing some extra cash for their beneficiaries.

But all of the advisers consulted agreed that the Advanced Planning schemes were a good idea for certain customers.

Martin Mullany, of Brooks Macdonald Gayer, says that funeral prices have gone up by 73 per cent over the past ten years.

He says: "If they carry on at that rate, you would need to make about 5.7 per cent growth each year, give or take the effect of compounding.

"You are unlikely to do that with a building society account, and many of the people who are likely to be attracted to this sort of plan will not want to invest in a volatile stock market based scheme. It would not give them the same peace of mind."

Amanda Davidson, of Holden Meehan, says: "It might seem macabre sorting out a funeral before you die, but for those who are approaching death, it can be very comforting.

"My great uncle wanted to be buried with a black marble memorial stone, and he actually got black granite. At least if you pre-arrange you know your wishes will be carried out."

Potential customers should bear in mind that the pre-arranged funeral industry is still unregulated, although the Government intends to draw these plans under the cover of a new Financial Services and Markets Act. Details should be published this Autumn.

In the meantime, customers should always check the security and financial record of the company from which they buy a plan.

Surrendering your policy?
If it's a with-profits endowment policy, there is an alternative. Neville James. We pay more.
- Top prices for suitable policies
- Prompt valuations, firm offers
- Professional, specialist staff 7 days a week, 8am-8pm

— PLEASE CALL NOW —
Tel: 01243 52 00 00
Fax: 01243 52 00 01
YOUR POLICY MUST BE AT LEAST 8 YEARS OLD
Neville JAMES
Neville James Limited, Jubilee Interpratis, West Pallant, Chichester, PO19 1TB
PIA AP MM

Unwanted endowment policy? It could be a gold mine.
MISSING MILLIONS EXPOSED
Market leading prices and service with a free 48 hour quote.
London/South: 01621 851133 Midlands: 0121 709 2500
South West: 0117 930 3827 North: 0113 239 1941 Scotland: 0141 353 0331
Call today, lines always open. Please quote TT12AD
Beale Dobie & Company Limited, Fullbridge Mill, Maldon, Essex CM9 5FN
AP MM Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority
Beale Dobie

Money Matters
...SO DON'T SURRENDER YOUR ENDOWMENT YET – FIND OUT FIRST IF YOU CAN SELL IT FOR MORE THAN SURRENDER VALUE
Call the ONLY Independent Brokers & Electronic Auctioneers NOW – for FREE valuations, FAST transactions, TOP PRICES, SECURITY. Transactions handled by solicitors.
iptc THE INSURANCE POLICY TRADING COMPANY LTD (Regulated by The Personal Investment Authority)
South: Tel: 01483 427575 Fax: 01483 418866
Midlands: Tel: 01952 884422 Fax: 01952 884455

CASHING IN YOUR ENDOWMENT ?
IT'S EASY TO GET MORE
We regularly pay up to 30% MORE* than the surrender value for with profits endowment and whole life policies.
Life Company Offered £16,028
Policy Portfolio Price £21,150
*For policies which are at least 6 years old and have a surrender value greater than £2,000.
Don't lose out - contact Policy Portfolio Plc today.
Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority
POLICY PORTFOLIO
TEL: 0181 343 4567 Lines Open 24 Hours - 7 Days a week
Gadd House, Arcadia Avenue, London N3 2JU

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Common sense beats specialists

From Mr Alan Jenkins

Sir, John Moret of Winterthur Life argues (Weekend Money Letters, August 22) that no one should take out a drawdown plan unless from a self-invested personal pension (SIPP), and that only the specially qualified should be allowed to advise on these matters.

One can understand Mr Moret's enthusiasm for SIPPs — after all his company sells them — and it is quite true that a SIPP is always very good indeed for the salesman.

However, its complexity and cost is not always ideal for the buyer, for whom a simpler and lower charge arrangement will usually offer better value.

The Financial Services fraternity is dedicated to convincing the rest of us that only its specially qualified members can manage our savings, and income drawdown is a golden opportunity to perpetrate this myth.

There is nothing like a commission of perhaps 5 per cent or more of an entire pension fund to bring the specially trained advisers out of the woodwork.

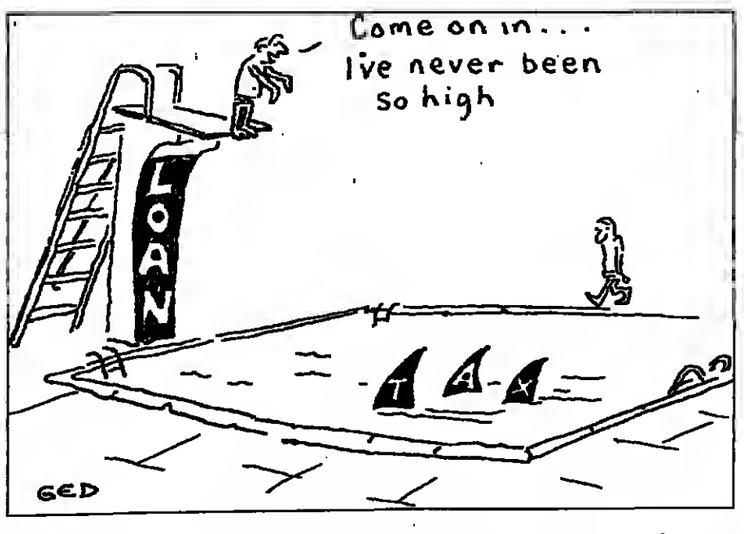
Such plans are not difficult to understand. The provider will provide a detailed illustration and this together with explanatory literature and Key Features document will allow most people to understand the plan.

Answers to any further questions should be available from the provider, who after all should know more about its own plan than any third party adviser.

With hindsight, such plans will always provide disappointing returns to some people because they depend on investment returns which even "specially qualified advisers" can't predict.

However, with common sense, a cautious investment, and above all low charges, drawdown is a worthwhile option for those who understand that investments have both risks and rewards.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN JENKINS,
6 Wisley Road,
London, SW11 6NF.



Government puts tax on education

From Mr Larry Moriarty

Sir, I would like to point out that at this time when students in higher education face the loss of grant and free tuition, the Government's low key and little publicised increase in the interest rate levied on student loans by over 34 per cent calls for some more in-depth inquiry and enlightenment. This is even more urgent given that levels of student loans are set to rise dramatically.

The Government may well have not increased taxation rates but the student loan system is now being used as a "back-door" tax on education.

Yours faithfully,
LARRY MORIARTY,
Creagan,
6 Mavis Road,
Blackburn,
BB2 6SW.

Pay advisers for advice, not products

From Ms Gillian M. Cardy

Sir, Prudential salesmen were to become farmers rather than hunters, but management requires them still to meet professional economic business levels.

However, every organisation that exists must sell a product, in whatever form, to a purchaser, thus generating income so that the organisation continues in business.

Income should also exceed outgoings (unless you are in the fortunate position of having a generous parent who can allow provision of 'loss leaders') and the income should cover the costs of putting the product in front of the customer, usually achieved by setting sales targets.

Both hunters and farmers must find a market to consume their products. Commission-only salesmen are no different to those on salaries (often with performance-related bonuses).

Both must produce certain levels of premium income to satisfy their masters that they are earning their living; both must sell more or lose their jobs.

The sooner that the financial services industry starts to market 'advice' as the 'products', the sooner the public will start to get a better deal.

Imagine how much better informed your readers would become if the hunters, or the farmers, were targeted by numbers of in-depth, long-term financial plans prepared, instead of by commission income.

More people might even seek advice if they felt confident that they would get advice, and not be inveigled into accepting some dubious, poor value or inappropriate vehicle by a heavy handed salesman under pressure to keep his job.

Yours faithfully,
GILLIAN CARDY,
Professional Partnerships,
Independent Financial Planning,
11 Broad Road,
Braintree,
Essex,
CM7 9RU.

Why would an investment company managing £6 billion be asking you for £20?

facts
- No initial or annual charge†
- Save from £20 a month. Or invest lump sums from just £200
- Easy access to your money
- Free share exchange service

figures
Average annual returns since 1980 of three of our most popular investment trusts...
Securities Trust 19.7%*
Scottish Eastern 18.5%*
St Andrew Trust 17.9%*

INVESTMENT TRUST SAVINGS PLAN

Financial experts around the world invest billions with Martin Currie. But we don't see why they should be the only people to benefit from our investment expertise.

For as little as £20 a month you could too, through our Investment Trust Savings Plan.

You can choose to invest in any of nine different trusts covering hundreds of companies in the UK and overseas. This gives your savings access to the potential of stockmarkets worldwide. What's more, there's no initial charge, and you can withdraw your money whenever you went.

For more details about the Martin Currie Savings Plan, phone, e-mail or clip the coupon.

0500 61 62 65
investorservices@martincurrie.com

MARTIN · CURRIE
Growing investments since 1881

COMPLETE AND POST TO
Martin Currie,
FREEPOST, Duncon, Argyll PA23 7UZ
Please send me a brochure and application form for the Martin Currie Savings Plan
(PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS)
Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss, other)
Surname
First name
Address
Postcode TT120998

Warning: Please remember that past performance is no guide to the future. Market and currency movements may cause the value of shares, and the income from them, to fall as well as rise and you may get back less than you invested when you decide to sell your shares. †Note: The only cost on purchase is stamp duty of 0.5% and the market spread between buying and selling prices. Investment trusts also pay management charges and administration expenses. *Source: Micropal. Average share price growth per annum with net income reinvested from 1/1/80 to 1/6/98. The equivalent five year figures are Scottish Eastern 18.3%, Securities Trust 13.1% and St Andrew Trust 13.2%.
Martin Currie Investment Management Ltd, Saltire Court, 20 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2ES. Regulated by IMRO

BTR REVISITED 57

Graham Searjeant on the decline of a conglomerate

WEEKEND MONEY

BREAKING OUT 62

Homeowners rebel at the way their money is handled

The high cost of loving

Caroline Merrell reports on the latest moves towards a fairer deal for those couples who choose to cohabit

Around two thirds of all couples live together before they get married. Most cohabit for only two years before they tie the knot, leaving the marathon cohabitation stints to the rich and famous, such as Jerry Hall and Mick Jagger, who wedded in secret in Bali after 14 years of cohabitation and two children.

Other marathon live-in relationships include that between Helen Mirren and the American director Taylor Hackford. After 12 years together they finally wedded on New Year's Day.

Ms Mirren's views on marriage had always been less than complimentary. She had often been quoted as saying: "It's just not to my taste. When I see my friends fall in love, get married and then divorced, it seems like this embarrassing awful change of mind."

Despite Ms Mirren and Ms Hall's own personal success and wealth, joining in holy matrimony to their long-term partners will bring an extra degree of financial security.

At the beginning of the year the Law Commission announced that it was planning a report that would look at the property rights of cohabiting couples. The serious injustice of the present law was highlighted in a case that came to the courts in 1984.

A woman had lived with her partner for 17 years and brought up their three children. The court found that despite her contribution as a mother and homemaker, she was not entitled to a share in the house when the relationship broke down — she became homeless.

The report was due to be published in November, but lawyers believe that it may be delayed because giving cohabiting couples similar rights to those that are married could prove to be a threat to the institution of marriage.

A recent survey from Colonial, the financial services provider, found that as many as 4.5 million women were throwing away their financial and pension benefits by not marrying their live-in partners.

The research shows that most women were unaware that there is no such thing as common-law status under English law.

It revealed that cohabitants are oblivious to the fact that they have limited rights outside of marriage on separation, or their partner's eventual retirement or death.

Helen Mirren changed her mind and tied the knot this year after 12 years with the film director Taylor Hackford

Playing safe: Jerry Hall finally got her man to the altar after 14 years of living together

Inequality between cohabitants and those that choose to marry are in three distinct financial areas: property, pensions and inheritance.

Property is perhaps one of the most contentious areas for reform. The Law Commission report follows a three-year study of the property rights of non-married cohabitants. Its series of options are likely to include allowing unmarried couples to register partnerships. This would allow them to seek court approval of a fair distribution of assets if they split up. Couples could elect to sign a standard form of approved contract which would specify how they wanted their assets to be split if they should part.

A second option could be to create a new power for courts to adjust finances and property when unmarried couples break up, just as is the case with married couples. The commission is likely to float the idea of a time limit of two years before any rights are triggered.

Mark Harper, solicitor and spokesman for the 4,000-member Solicitors Family Law Association, said: "It may be very politically difficult. There are some that feel very strongly about the institution of marriage."

Pensions are also an area of inequality for the cohabitant. At the moment, most occupational schemes provide for a widow's pension, which is usually half the pension bestowed on the pension scheme member. If the pension scheme member dies, then the widow or widower will benefit from the reduced pension until they die.

Someone who is merely cohabiting with the pension scheme member will not benefit from this pension. Some trustees of the more forward-looking pension schemes may decide to pay out a widow's pension to those that cohabit, especially if the pension scheme member has children to support.

Those that have personal pensions can nominate someone to be entitled to a pension after their death.

Death-in-service benefits under company pension schemes are also often only bestowed on either someone nominated by the pension scheme member, or the next of kin — cohabitants will not usually benefit under the death-in-service clause.

Mr Harper pointed out that inheritance for those cohabiting can be extremely complicated. The law was recently changed to allow those that have cohabited for more than two years to make a claim against the estate, if a will has not been drawn up. Mr. Harper said: "My advice to those that are cohabiting is to draw up a deed of trust which divides up property and asset." He also advises cohabiting couples to draw up a will.

INSIDE

59 **Anne Ashworth** on the cash or shares debate

INVESTMENT 1

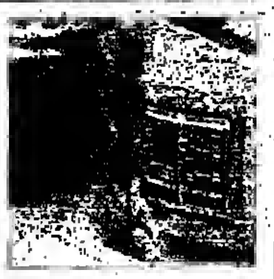
55 The pros and cons of using share options

UTILITIES

59 How to cut the cost of power bills

INVESTMENT 2

60 Save on your dealing costs as prices fall



BUSINESS NEWS pages 49-53
UNIT TRUST PRICES p54 SHARE PRICES p48

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

Halifax ready to take on the stockbrokers

Halifax is aiming to undercut low-cost execution-only share dealers such as Charles Schwab and NatWest Stockbrokers with the launch next month of a telephone-based service dealing in all of the leading United Kingdom shares (Patrick Collinson writes).

Halifax has piloted a dealing service in its own shares since the former building society demutualised last summer. It has distributed shares to 7.6 million savers and borrowers and says that its pre-launch research has found widespread consumer dissatisfaction at service levels and creeping rises in charges at some brokers.

Sue Concannon, managing director of Halifax Sharedealing, promises that share dealing charges will be among the lowest in the market when the service is launched around the middle of next month.

She said: "It will be cost-effective, it will offer value for money and customers won't have to hold on for ages to get through to people."

The low-cost share dealing market has witnessed rapid change over the past year. One of the biggest brokers, Fidelity Brokerage, pulled out of the market in December last year after running into a string of administrative and computer problems which culminated in a £250,000 fine.

It also faces a challenge from Edward Jones, the United States stockbroking firm, which has plans for a 400-strong share shop network to be rolled out from next year.

Further competition will come from new Internet-based brokers. Both Barclays Stockbrokers and NatWest Stockbrokers say they plan to launch Internet trading sites before the end of this year.

Save on dealing, page 60

Bad news for holiday fraudsters

Pursuing a holiday insurance claim is becoming a little harder. Honest claimants can put the blame on the fraudsters, those travellers who console themselves for the ending of their holiday by submitting a falsified claim for the theft of some expensive item, such as a camera.

This year the Travel Claims Early Warning system (T-Clews) is swinging into action. This is a computerised network into which, in future, participating insurers will enter details of all their travel claims. Using the new system, managers will find it much easier to establish the patterns which help them to spot persistent offenders.

"When a case is discovered, all possible action is taken to secure a conviction," says Dennis Myers, of the Travellers Insurance Association, (part of Commercial Union). Mr Myers gave examples of some of the characters in his rogues' gallery. People like the man who regularly travels abroad alone, despite the fact that he has allegedly been mugged nine times. Another case handled by Manchester Police Fraud Squad involved an individual who spoke four languages. He regularly had a camera stolen from the check-in at his hotel on arrival at his destination.

The man used his linguistic skills each time to produce a police report in the language of the country he allegedly visited, together with an English translation. He was also able to obtain false documents confirming the camera's value.

He was caught when he slipped up by combining German text with an Italian hotel name. It later turned out that he had worked the same scam 165 times.

For a case to be taken forward by the police, the onus is on the insurer to obtain sufficient evidence. Closed circuit TV at airports has proved a useful ally, and an incident at Manchester Airport last year is a classic example. A couple who had a history of losing suitcases on a return journey were seen on camera to retrieve two cases from the carousel. Then, while the husband took the cases to the car, the wife was seen to call at the property irregularity desk and report one missing. The police had tracked the whole scenario, and they were arrested.

Airport CCTV cameras have proved useful in protecting luggage from loss

Some foreign countries are now tired of the slur on their country's name caused by innumerable allegations of theft made by visiting holidaymakers. Police in Cyprus, for instance, instead of automatically issuing police reports, are making random checks. They have gone to a victim's hotel or apartment and found the items lost or stolen still in their room or even being worn by them.

After luggage-related claims, the largest source of travel insurance fraud are claims of a medical nature. A common scam in European countries where the state health service cannot cope with the number of tourists who fall ill involves private medical facilities. "Such clinics appear by magic in the best-known areas and private ambulance companies always seem to take victims to them," says TIA's Dennis Myers. "Charges are hugely inflated for tourists and there is a constant battle to ensure that fees are reasonable and the treatment adequate for the unsuspecting tourist." The commonest offenders of all are those who suffer real losses but exaggerate claims. A survey of attitudes to insurance undertaken in 1997 found, curiously, that though the majority of the British public would admit to exaggerating a claim, they supported the efforts of the industry to keep down premiums by catching fraudsters.

PHILIP BARRON.

MONEY BUILDER

Are you looking to invest but concerned about the stockmarket? Don't worry. Fidelity have over 50 years' experience of managing money in volatile markets.

DEDICATED APPROACH

Looking after people's money is all we do. We believe we research companies more thoroughly than anyone else for security and risk. Every year our analysts and managers make over 46,000 company contacts all around the world, handpicking investment opportunities. You can access all this investment expertise through our MoneyBuilder Range of PEPs.

Our MoneyBuilder Income PEP is particularly suited to the more cautious investor. It invests in corporate bonds. So it's a less volatile investment than traditional equity-based PEPs. Yet it currently offers a generous tax-free income of 6.49%.

If you're looking to tap into the long-term potential of the UK stockmarket, consider MoneyBuilder Growth – an actively managed UK Growth PEP that has consistently outperformed the FT-SE All Share Index. Like all the PEPs in the MoneyBuilder range, both PEPs come without entry or exit charges.* And you can switch into any of the other MoneyBuilder funds whenever you like, free of charge. So call us now, send off the coupon or speak to your IFA to find out more. What are you waiting for?

PEP/ISA HOTLINE 9AM TO 8PM, 7 DAYS
0800 41 41 33
www.fidelity.co.uk

To: Fidelity Investments, PO Box 88, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9DZ. Phone 0800 41 41 33. Please send me information on Fidelity's MoneyBuilder PEP Range. We will not disclose any information outside the Fidelity Marketing Group.

Name
Address
Postcode Tel

Fidelity Investments
WHERE 12 MILLION INVESTORS PUT THEIR TRUST.

هكذا من الأصل

MARCO PIERRE WHITE

Battle of the gills: the chef squares up to a salmon

page 3

SHOPPING

Spin out summer with lilacs, pinks and lavenders

page 5

FEATURE

Prince's popsie: Edward VIII's unseen love letters

page 4

MATTHEW PARRIS

Hard labour: shifting five tons of rock by hand

page 14

THE TIMES

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12 1998

WEEKEND

'I don't think she's aware of what she's lost'

John Bayley, husband of the novelist Iris Murdoch, tells Moira Petty how he copes with his wife's Alzheimer's Disease

Dame Iris Murdoch sits at her kitchen table, implacable, mysterious, like some wise cat caught up in a silent reverie. Her husband, John Bayley, the literary critic and former Warton Professor of English at Oxford University, is explaining with infinite patience the task he has devised, something to fend off the boredom which fills her with a melancholic anxiety.

The fog of Alzheimer's Disease began closing in around Dame Iris, now 79, several years ago: by 1996 there was no doubt about the diagnosis. The gradual atrophy of the phenomenal brain which produced 26 novels of great erudition, including *The Bell*, *The Severed Head* and *The Sacred and Profane Love Machine*, as well as works of philosophy, has left Bayley scrabbling around to adjust to the narrowed perimeters of their lives, with Dame Iris trailing blankly, if benignly, in his wake.

Her co-ordination is failing and, worse, she cannot grasp the concept of the simplest activities, like dressing or washing the dishes. "She can do up her shoelaces, but doesn't get around to it. The fact is that the one big thing has gone," murmurs Bayley, 73. "Nothing else mattered but her writing." Her last novel, *Jackson's Dilemma*, was published in 1995. By the time the reviews came out, she was unable to understand them.

"The extraordinary intellectual process of planning a novel was so meticulous and complete that she would announce: 'I've finished'. I'd say: 'You can't be'. She'd say: 'I've only got to write it'. It was all in her head."

The only clues to how her mind works now are the brain

Continued on page 2

Iris Murdoch in 1950, before she became a hugely successful author. Today, she cannot write at all, and even struggles to perform the simplest tasks, like tying her shoelaces

SHOPPING ... PROPERTY 14-17 | FAITH 23 | TRAVEL 25-32 | GAMES 35,36

World Offers.
Flight prices from:

San Francisco £329 rtn

Paris £75 rtn

Munich £107 rtn

For thousands of World Offers call us now on:
0345 222111 Book by 30th September '98.
or see your Travel Agent

Fares are return from London and subject to availability and travel periods vary. Includes pre-paid taxes correct at 19th August 1998. For details see ITV Teletext p.380, your Travel Agent, British Airways Travel Shop or book and pay at our Web site: www.british-airways.com

WORLD OFFERS
BRITISH AIRWAYS
The world's favourite airline

Iris Murdoch and John Bayley in their garden. He says: "It's impossible for us to be separated because she gets so upset if I leave her with anyone else and I have to keep the front door locked at all times in case she wanders off"

'Nothing else mattered to her but her writing'

Continued from page 1

scans, carried out by the Cambridge Research Unit of the Medical Council, as part of its investigation into the effect of Alzheimer's on formidable intellects, and Bayley's part-intuitive, part-semiotic interpretation of her behaviour.

"I puzzle over it every day," he says. "I don't think she is aware of what she's lost. There are experimental drugs they can give in the early stage, but they produce a schizoid state where you're simultaneously aware of what's gone and not able to do anything about it. I think if there was more clarity, more people in the early stages would do themselves in.

"I'm grateful that there isn't what you might call clear-eyed despair going on. There is a kind of animal trust in the person she is with. I sometimes think that is because she was such a very good person and now it is as if she has become a very good animal."

Spotting a copy of her 1978 novel, the Booker Prize-winning *The Sea, The Sea* in my bag, Bayley suggests that she inscribe it. He writes my daughter's name on a piece of paper. "Can you write 'To Lily', like I've written it?" he asks gently. Laboriously, she copies the letters, which cannon into each other; splodges and squiggles erupt on the page. It is unbearably poignant.

Iris has been silent all morning, although not uncommunicative. She smiles seraphically and waves animatedly to me several times as a toddler might do. When Bayley suggests adding to the inscription, she listens politely, then says, with perfect clarity: "I'm sorry. I can't understand you," and gives a soft, ironic laugh, as if something quite outlandish had been mooted.

Bayley senses my thought. "One of the most singular things which I find unnerving is that if I say in a cross voice: '*Snap out of it*', she laughs and looks at one as if she were perfectly well aware of the joke involved and you are the one who's going wrong," he says.

Bayley has written a moving but entirely unsentimental account of their life together. *Iris: A Memoir of Iris Murdoch*, which *The Times* will begin serialising on Monday. "It was a labour of love but I was also encouraged by people who said not enough was known about this condition."

The book takes the story up to last Christmas, but in the past nine months, says Bayley, things have got worse. Last year, he was able to attend a lunch at St Catherine's College, where he was a Fellow until his retirement in 1992, leaving Iris alone. "She was happy, knowing that I was coming back soon." Now, he endures what he describes as "a gentlemanly confinement". He says: "It's impossible to be separated. She gets upset if I leave her with anyone. I have to make sure that the front door is locked at all times. Several times she has wandered off quite a distance, crossing roads and so on. Once, she was missing for five hours and I had to call the police.

"When she falls into a depression, I have to take her for a walk around the block. When we go shopping, she is happy to sit in the car and watch people go past. If I pop over to St Cat's, she is too shy to go into the college, but the gardener comes over and talks to her. I think he is a trifle off the beam himself, but they wave their arms at each other and smile cheerfully.

"It is very difficult to go to restaurants. The last time we went, some months ago, it was, embarrassing to put it mildly. Instead of popping out to the loo, she decided to do it on the spot. A perfectly natural thing when you think of animals, but traumatic for the waiters."

There is no complaint in his cultured tones. Indeed, Bayley has succumbed to this new life with utter equanimity. He is satisfied as long as he gets his few hours, early in the morning, for writing, tapping away in bed on his typewriter as Iris sleeps beside him. In this way, he has turned out three novels since his retirement. Married since 1956, they have always had a chaotic domestic life. In their house in north Oxford, the detritus of everyday life lies abandoned wherever you look. Dozens of empty coffee jars and bottles litter every surface, and condiments have been disgorged from cupboards. Books, clothes and shoes sit in huge heaps, upstairs and down. "We have trouble finding a matching pair of shoes," muses Bayley, "but once it's in this state, it's easier to leave it as it is."

Windows are smothered ivy and jasmine. Iris pads silently through the house's crepuscular gloom, clutching scraps of paper, sticks and other items she has picked up on their walks.

"Once lost, you never find anything again," says Bayley. "We call it *Pieland*. We once bought a particularly fine pork pie. We were gloating over it and went off to do something. When we returned, it had disappeared. We never saw it again. That was soon after we moved here in 1989."

Today, Bayley has wrestled Iris into a striped blue and white dress — "easier than trousers" — and pop sox. "It's the best we can do; tights are impossible. Bathing is easy, or, rather, it's a question of washing her. The local authority would send someone to help, but it would be difficult for her having someone doing something so intimate."

The reversal of their roles and this inter-dependency is in stark contrast to the early days of their relationship, when Iris had affairs with several men. They met in 1953, when Iris was a philosophy don at St Anne's College and on the verge of publishing her first novel.

"Coming from Northern Ireland, she was rather puritanical, until she got going," recalls Bayley. "Not that she had been saving herself for marriage, or anything silly like that." Her lovers were intellectuals and professors older than herself.

"She was never physically attracted to anyone, and that's not surprising when you think what they looked like. I think she went to bed with them for their minds. I don't think she was ever really interested in the sex at all. She wanted a greater intimacy with these men, which took that form for obvious reasons.

"She wasn't in control of what was happening. Far from being a cold, tough woman who could manage these things, she was very much at the mercy of these men. They were very egotistical, but she felt the need to sleep with them coming over her like an illness. Intellectuals are so keen on telling you what they think that there is a masochistic pleasure in giving way to another side of themselves."

Chief among the egotists was the Nobel Prize-winning author Elias Canetti. She wrote about their affair in *The Flight of the Enchanter*. "He was a god-like figure. I used to find it particularly spooky that Canetti's wife, a rather strange woman, would be in the flat when Iris and he were in bed."

Iris used to meet another admirer, an Italian professor, on Saturday nights: "I used to follow the professor to his hotel, then stand and stare up at the window. It was self-destructive curiosity, wanting to know the worst. It was agonising."

Bayley, "curiously a virgin when I met her, despite my age", vaguely thought their relationship would work out in the end. "One or two of her friends told me she'd never get married. How marriage was ever decided was mysterious to me. I think she must have decided at some point. I think she had a feeling of release."

Iris sat Bayley down and gave him the full facts about her affairs. "I was rather dejected. We made a joke of it. I didn't know all these persons, but I'd wrestled in spirit with them. I had no idea whether this was going to continue after our marriage, butshe turned out to be very monogamous. She had strong views about morals, worked out in terms of philosophy and partly from her childhood.

"Iris's illness has changed our marriage, but we never saw ourselves as getting wiser together. We used to have a jokey kind of communication. I don't feel as though there's no conversation now. We're like two children going on at each other, although we can't manage an argument. Actual sentences don't come out except in the presence of congenial visitors."

Iris's tastes have changed. "She makes touching, shy attempts to speak to children in the street, which she never used to do." They now have a television and are fans of *Teletubbies* ("There's something rather poetic about them") and cartoons. These days, Iris tolerates pop music, but Bayley tiptoes back to the kitchen where two radios blast out Radio 3 and Classic FM in opposition to each other.

This is where Bayley cooks up the idiosyncratic dishes, some of which he devised for Charles Arrowby, the chief character in *The Sea, The Sea*. One consisted of oatmeal fried in olive oil with onion and garlic. "I don't bother much with that now. We have sardines and baked beans and sausages."

As I prepare to leave, Iris tries to hand me her jacket. "That's your jacket darling," says Bayley lightly. I thank her for her inscription in my book. She looks at the volume as if it were a foreign object, then puts her arms around me and utters a tinkling cry: "A-a-a-ah."

Bayley smiles: "That's her mouse cry. It's like the cry of one creature to another. It sounds so nice. I like it, of course. That sort of gentleness in her seems to persist. She remains a very good person."

● *Extracted from Iris: A Memoir of Iris Murdoch by John Bayley to be published by Gerald Duckworth at £16.95 on September 24. © John Bayley 1998. Readers can buy it from* The Times Bookshop *(0990 134459) at £14.95.*

ON MONDAY

IN THE TIMES

I wonder if Iris is secretly thinking: how can I escape?

Iris Murdoch and John Bayley in their library. Murdoch's last novel was published in 1995 but by the time the reviews came out she was unable to understand them

هكذا من الأصل

Anne Robinson

● OUR NEW kitchen is being installed this week. It has been a long haul. Not so much the choosing, but the decision to dabble again with a kitchen firm. Penrose remains scarred from an experience 18 years ago when a man driving a black Porsche arrived late in the evening and, hey presto, we signed up for a Moben kitchen. Penrose thinks we should have known better and about once a week he will say of some situation: "It's as bad as that bloody man in the black Porsche flogging us the instant kitchen."

Anyway, this time we chose Roger. Roger has double-breasted suits and a middle-range motor and his firm masterminded the bespoke wardrobes for Mrs T when she was at No 10. Roger doesn't try to sell you anything. Roger is very understated. "Interesting" is the word he uses when he thinks the idea you've had is a bit dodgy. "That's fine" is for when he wholeheartedly agrees.

Roger didn't mind that I wanted a cooking range and not an Aga. Although in Gloucestershire this decision has been greeted with outright horror. Roger was also non-committal about gas versus electric ovens. In a panic I ran over to Launceston Place to consult the head chef, rang Jeremy at the Ivy, pestered Nigel Slater and dropped a note to the wonderful Frances Bissell. I now know real cooks aren't in the least bit fussy about equipment. None of the above thought that it mattered that much. And it confirms what a kitchen designer at Heal's told me. The posher the kitchen the less likely that it belongs to a cook. He said I'd be amazed by the calls on Christmas Eve from people who'd bought an oven costing the price of a Ford Fiesta and now wanted to know how to remove the protective wrapping so they could try to roast a turkey.

● TO Hampstead Theatre Club to see *Full Gallop*. Mary Louise Wilson's one woman show — which she co-wrote — on a day in the life of that high priestess of fashion, Diana Vreeland. Famously sacked from *Vogue* in 1971. A dazzling evening; the tall, languid, intimidating figure in black cashmere a reminder of several bygone Fleet Street grandes dames. But as a play for women it has suffered from being reviewed by male critics. Our party of five women included the daughter and her friend, the lovely Michele from New York.

As we get up to leave, a handsome young man hails the girls and Michele squeals "Jessie! Are you still serving at Pizza Uno on Third Ave?" "No," says Jessie modestly, "I'm over here playing the second lead in *Rent*." Whoops.

● JUST TO recap on my Old Women's Home. It is to be a haven where those whose husbands have departed can bring their staff and their skills and where pooled resources will prevent us all from being lonely.

My Gloucestershire neighbour Carolyn North drops a note through my letterbox saying she would definitely like to reserve a place and she is good for feeding dogs and wrapping Christmas presents. Wendy Davey in Weybridge wants two places. She and her partner are qualified Cerebral Activation Trainers, which is very popular in Europe and will stop our brains rotting. A reader in Devon, whose daughter is about to marry a garrulous Swede, asks if she can come immediately. And Jenny de Robeck in Cumbria reminds me that we will need an occupational therapist. Who else, she inquires, is going to help us on with our knickers in the morning, provide non-fall-over egg-cups, work the equipment we'll need to hoist us in and out of our baths and keep our walking frames in good order? I fear the idea is losing its glamour.

● LATER, a letter from one of my tennis partners, currently at his home in LA. He says news of the planned Old Women's Home has upset him greatly. "While a residence for elderly ladies is not in conflict with playing the game of tennis," he writes, "several of your male tennis partners feel hurt they are being excluded from your future plans. And at the start of the new millennium to be taking a female chauvinist view about elderly gentlemen is most unbecoming." I have scribbled a note back saying that as he is President of EMI Europe and knows about music, we might just allow him in on a Saturday night to run our disco.

● BACK IN London for the start of *Watchdog* and dinner at the Ivy. Dale Winton, star of *Supermarket Sweep*, makes a grand entrance. "Annie," he cries, "meet my very best friend, Chris. He's helping me do up my new house." Chris politely shakes my hand. "I don't suppose you'll remember," he says, "but some years ago I sold you a kitchen." "Oh yes," say I, "and you used to drive a black Porsche."

The chef has other fish to fry

Marco Pierre White has a day out on the river with Ben Webb

SUZANNE HUBBARD

'I can't see the point of killing these ones,' he says, letting the exhausted salmon go and holding its tail in the water until it recovers. 'It's about respect, isn't it?'

As the stars flock to be seen at the Mirabelle, helping Robert Redford celebrate the premiere of his film *The Horse Whisperer*, one man is shunning the flashbulbs and media glare. The multi-millionaire restaurant owner himself.

Marco Pierre White is a world away, hunched over a pair of skis as he carves, through a perilous corner on the piste. He races across the finishing line and sprays snow to a stop. He looks at his time and grins. "I win again," he enthuses, as he steps off the virtual video game.

Marco is in a Bournemouth arcade and celebrating something much more important than a film premiere. Today, after 14 hours of intense struggle on the banks of the Avon, he landed two plump salmon.

He slots another £1 coin into the machine — just like one of the local lads, apart from the panama hat, that is, and the three Michelin stars and the millions of pounds to his name. Co-owner of the Café Royal, Quo Vadis, the Criterion, MPW, the Oak Room and, of course, the Mirabelle, he was valued by the *Sunday Times* Rich List at £30 million, Britain's 668th richest man.

When this precocious, tempestuous, handsome chef first emerged he seemed to crave fame but acquired infamy. Even his hybrid name, with its Italian, French and English chunks, seemed a stunt.

He now lives with his Spanish partner, Mati, and their sons, Luciano and Marco, and the business is ticking over nicely. "At work I used to play an attacking game the whole time," he says. "Now I play a defensive game."

At weekends Marco escapes London for his country home on an island in the River Avon — a prime spot on the Royalty Fishery in Hampshire. It was there that I met him to go fishing.

It is 9am. Marco, his 6ft 3in frame engulfed by chest-high green waders and the panama hat hiding his brown curly hair, has been up for three hours and he is not happy. Apart from having just had to club a mink to death, he says, "I'm gutted. I had a salmon — a beautiful fish — on the hook for eight seconds, but I lost it. It was a lovely fish."

As we wander to a stretch of the crystal river where he believes the salmon will be lying, Marco explains his passion. "I'm not addicted to fishing," he muses. "I just miss it a lot when I haven't done it for a while. I bought the house so I could be near my family and fish."

Through his Polaroid sunglasses he spots a shoal of chub, including one "huge fish", and a barbel. "Take a look." He hands me his glasses. The underwater world coalesces with a new clarity.

But Marco is after salmon. A moment later, the man who still slaves over a hot stove each night in the Oak Room delicately prepares a red-dyed prawn — a snack to tempt the fish which do not eat once they have left the sea.

He slides into the water between a gap in the rushes and begins to cast, concentrating hard. At any moment another battle may begin.

Marco is a battler. A dyslexic born on a Leeds council estate, he fought his way through the ranks to emerge as one of the greatest chefs of his generation. It has been a tempestuous life. Dubbed the *enfant terrible* of cuisine because of his temper tantrums, he has been divorced twice, had bust-ups with business partners like Michael Caine, and turfed people out of Harvey's, the restaurant he opened when he was just 26 and where he collected two Michelin stars. Rocco Forte then installed him in the Hyde Park Hotel where he won a third star in 1995.

But in the river, the rod braced against his forearm, he has no need to worry about work. He can let his mind drift with the float. At work, he admits, he is a hard taskmaster but on the river he is affable, chatting to other anglers and wishing them all luck. He strides the banks, master of the domain, dishing out alms — the offer to fish from his island — with a baronial air. But somehow he remains matey. When the bailiffs inspect his up-market rod and Marco reveals he owns another ten, they think "typical Marco" rather than "flash git".

> 'Fish are like women: sometimes they bite, sometimes they don't'

We spot a shadow under a footbridge. "That's a very nice fish," he says eagerly. "An impressive fish. It'll go like a bat out of hell." But an angler already positioned on the opposite bank takes a dim view of Marco's growing interest. Marco is unabashed. He wants the salmon. He has lost one already.

I think of him chucking out eaters for ordering well-done steak. He admits he was like a "serial killer" who got a taste for ejecting his clients — his record was 54 in one night. Would the rival angler suffer a similar fate?

Marco cajoles him into joining forces. Soon Marco is casting away and his new friend is lying on the bridge giving directions. "Left a bit. Right a bit. A little deeper. Perfect."

However, the fish is not biting. Marco gives up. "A fish is like a woman," he declares philosophically. "Sometimes they bite and sometimes they don't." As we walk downstream, he spots some wild watercress — a perfect accompaniment to salmon — and talks about nature's great culinary combinations: the wood pigeon in the elderberry bush, the trout and crayfish sharing the river, the plump pheasant roosting in an orchard. "We chefs are not that clever," he says.

Marco, of course, is clever. And he also has a canny knack for catching salmon. On the Royalty only six salmon have been caught all summer and two of them were caught by him. Like Michelin stars, three is the magic number.

Marco has caught four plump salmon this season

We head for a known salmon hang-out and Marco starts to fish. He casts once, twice, and the float jabs into the water. The fish bites and races downstream, the reel singing as the line vanishes. But the fish soon tires and Marco lands it. He rubs its flank and it writhes on his chest, leaving a film of gunge on his purple shirt. "It's a nice fish," he says. Marco has won. He steps into the water to let the exhausted salmon go, holding its tail until it recovers. "I can't see the point of killing them," he says. "It's about respect, isn't it?"

It is almost lunch-time and we return to his house to eat fish and chips washed down with a St Emilion Grand Cru.

As dusk falls and midges arrive, Marco manages to catch his second salmon of the day, bringing his total this season to four. "It's incredible," he says triumphantly. "You can go to Scotland and catch nothing in a week, but we've got two salmon just a few hours' drive from London."

Later on that evening, we go to an Italian restaurant in Bournemouth where the bright young things are out in force. Marco becomes restaurateur rather than angler. The waiters, now used to his custom, are friendly, not deferential.

"You'll have what I have," he informs me. I put the menu down. "You can't have pasta here because they can't do it al dente and if it's not al dente, it's a waste of time."

The starter arrives and Marco demands another half of avocado to go with the mozzarella and cured ham. The pizza arrives. He stabs the egg in the centre and shakes his head sadly. He eats with his knife and fingers: food is a fuel rather than a pleasure.

The waiters take no offence. He keeps coming back. His friend and driver, Bernard, told me that one waiter had complimented Marco on his hat: Marco had given him one as a present. "It cost £200 from Hawkes in London," he said. "And he gives huge tips."

After the meal, we go skiing at the arcade. Marco wins the first few races but, in the last, we are neck-and-neck. I swish across the line and win. Marco is mortified. "You pipped me on the line," he says, smiling glumly. In life, he makes a good winner. I wonder how good he is at losing.

Don't miss the Southampton International Boat Show
12th - 20th September.
There'll be no better day out for the family this year!

Go boating for free, with over 30 craft to choose from • See 800 boats on display with over 300 afloat • *Climb the rigging and play aboard HMS Shipwreck in the Children's Activity Island* • **Immerse yourself in a Royal Navy Submarine simulator** • Thrill to the 18ft Skiff Grand Prix and the Volvo Penta Motor Cruiser Challenge • **Take in the Fashion shows** • *Cruise the chandlery and clothing stands - many with 'end of season' offers.*

Then drop anchor at one of the many bars and cafés, enjoy a drink or a meal, or be entertained at the Theakstons Peculiar Inn and Family area.

12th - 20th September 1998. Preview Day 11th September.
Open 10.00am - 7.00pm (6.00pm on 20th).
'Park and Ride' – M27 junction 3 (follow the sign).

All information correct at time of going to press.

30th Anniversary Festival SOUTHAMPTON INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW
Western Esplanade, Southampton

The childish language and saccharine affection displayed by the Prince of Wales in private letters reveal his emotional immaturity

In all, there are 263 letters, many of them pathetic declarations of love and often written in baby language. They were sent relentlessly by Edward, Prince of Wales to Freda Dudley Ward, his lover before Wallis Simpson, from March 1918 to January 1921.

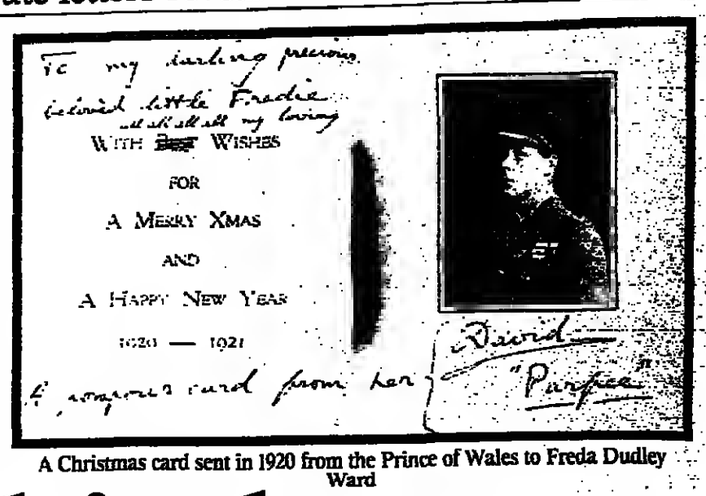
The letters were discovered by chance two years ago in a dust-covered trunk belonging to a Canadian stamp collector. He had bought the collection for their early stamps and postmarks. And after letting them gather dust for 20 years, he decided to sift through the trunk just as a friend who recognised the worth of the letters was staying with him. They have now been published for the first time.

Late in February of 1918, during the First World War, the Prince attended a party in Belgrave Square in London. During the evening, an air-raid was sounded and a couple who had been walking through the square sought refuge in the doorway of the house where the party was taking place. The hostess invited the couple, one of whom was Freda Dudley Ward, the estranged wife of a Labour MP, to shelter with the other guests in the cellar. Edward was immediately attracted to Freda and was soon involved with her.

Edward's devotion to his beloved "Fwedie Wedie" was all-consuming. The saccharine terms of affection, the baby-talk, the swear words and lewd jokes that he uses repeatedly in the letters are embarrassing; the insecurity that he feels and the stifling nature of his role as Prince of Wales are pitiful. On more than one occasion he hints of resignation. Where the Prince used blanks for his colourful language, they have been reproduced. Sometimes, however, he was not so polite. The letters do not reveal the cowardly manner in which he finished the affair. In early 1934, Freda was wholly preoccupied with the illness of her elder daughter. When the trouble was past, she telephoned York House and, to the operator's extreme embarrassment, had to be told that instructions had been given that she was not to be put through.

In this cruel fashion, the Prince terminated the 16-year friendship and his relationship with Mrs Simpson took over his life.

ANDREW YATES



A Christmas card sent in 1920 from the Prince of Wales to Freda Dudley Ward

When the Prince fell in love

Previously unpublished letters from Edward, Prince of Wales to Freda Dudley Ward expose the deep unhappiness he felt about his royal life

GHQ British Forces, Italy
4th April 1918
Life is as deadly dull and depressing as ever out here & I am so bored though this is only my 4th night here; but I suppose I sholl get used to it again.

But I got a bottle of your scent [Royol Briar] the morning I left & this means a great deal to me. I put some on my hundkerchief when I go to bed & then I feel happy as it smells of you, angel!! It is too divine for words & mokes me temporarily insane.

Goodnight Freda my darling & do write again soon as I just live for your letters! Tons & tons of my very best love & des milliers de baisers from your very very devoted adoring.

14th April
I heard a rumour thnt the King had written personally to Lady Drogheda remonstrating with her for giving that dance; I must say that I think it's the worst possible form to give dances during this most desperate & critical time of the war, don't you durling? [Lady Drogheda's dance made her very unpopular as not only was the battle raging in France, but it was also Holy Week].

22nd April
How funny that you should have passed the King in an enormous car; I wonder if he saw you darling?!! Oh!! this —— war & why has fate orduined that I should spend my life "au front"? I'm so fearfully bored & getting worse each day & absolutely no chance of leave even in sight!! How depressing and sordid it all is!! [Sordid was the Prince's all-purpose word for anything unpleasant, boring or irritating.]

> 'Oh, to get home to you darling is my only desire & all I can think about'

21st May
Yes darling, I do get fits of depression & very bad ones too, sometimes, though not very often & it's generally on account of cold & wet wentlier, tlough not always, of course!!

You noughty little baby, how dare you ask me whnt sort of a French school I went to & what I learnt there?!! If only you knew how far removed I am from what you mean!! Oh!! to get home to you darling is my only desire & all I can think about . . . I love & adore you to distraction & you know it, sweetheart!!!!

19th June
Again all the sweet & angelic things you say make me feel so fearfully naughty, darling one, despite being in this —— office on night duty again!!

I've just had all your darling photos out of their frames and have given each one "un petit baiser bien doux" wishing more than ever I could do so to the original, though it would not be the case of "un petit baiser"; it would be tous tous mes baisers, *ma* toute petite amour à moi *qu'envoie* ton E qui t'aime et qui adore à distraction!!!!

3rd July
I enclose the "shocking" little notice about the WAACs [see picture] though it may be the one you meant; I hope you don't mind me sending you these sorts of things . . . after all they really are very harmless little jokes & yet amusing!!

21st July
I love the rhymes, which are all new to me except "May you live as long as you want to". The best line you sent me is "If I thought you'd do it well, I might!"

I suppose they are rather naughty, but that makes them all the nicer.

22nd July
I wonder if you know either of the two enclosed rhymes, one of which is a "toast"; they are both very "naughty", especially the "toast"!!

A Toast
Here's to the girl who loves me to rest
With my arms around her waist
& my head on her breast,
Cheek to cheek, & face to face,
And everything else in its proper place!!
I love the girls who do,
And I love the girls who don't.
But I hate the girls who say they do
And then you find they won't,
Of all the girls that I love best
And I think you'll say I'm right;
Is the girl who never says she does
But looks as though she might!!

15th July
How tragic the wretched Tsar being shot. What brutes the Bolshevists are & I don't believe a word about the conspiracy; he was a charming man, though of course hopelessly weak!!

7th August
I've just been smoking one of those "cigarettes ambrées" [amber-scented]. *I brought over 2 boxes but I haven't touched one for months; it's made me feel so terribly naughty sweetheart and reminds me so much of a certain sofa, in a certain room in a certain house!!!! Oh!! to be back on that sofa again & with any luck I shall soon!!*

9th September
I heard a filthy French story in Paris & must give it to you, though please forgive my depraved mind!! "Un Boche viola une jeune Française dans le pays envahi; après il a dit: 'Je vous ai torpillé.' Elle répond: 'Oui, mais c'est vous qui va couler'."!!! [A Boche violated a young French girl in the occupied territory: afterwards, he said: "I have torpedoed you." She replied: "Yes, but it is you who is going to sink."] *Pretty disgusting darling one . . . Now I must go to bed.*

15th September
So Reggie says the dinner at Windsor was a succès & he ought to know; but my sister says it was too & she has enough experience, poor darling!! Gud!! If only we could get her married & save her from complete ruination and get her away from court.

16th September
You also promised you wouldn't change your scent till I returned, do you remember? It isn't fair on me if you do as I always like to use my own darling girl's scent (though I only put a little on my handkerchief when I go to bed) which is now "Chypre" from Floris!! And it does make me feel deliciously naughty . . . though it's a fat lot of good feeling naughty here, isn't it!!

25th September
We've made a habit of dancing for 'hr after dinner every night & it does us oll a lot of good, though Gud! how it makes me long for you, particularly when the gunner I told you about plays Wild Thyme, *though some of these nasty-minded fellows have concocted a naughty version of the words & the last line runs: "Can't I sow a wild oat in you?"!*

Headquarters, Canadiao Corps
15th October
I do get black fits of depression as you know & which you've warned me against, but thot is only surface depression; underneath or inside there is huppiness which is the result of knowing that my idol loves me just a little bit! That keeps me going.

9th November
I must give you my newest limerick darling:

There was a young lady called Hilda
Who went for a walk with a builder.
He said that he could & he should & he would
And he did & he d——d near killed her!!

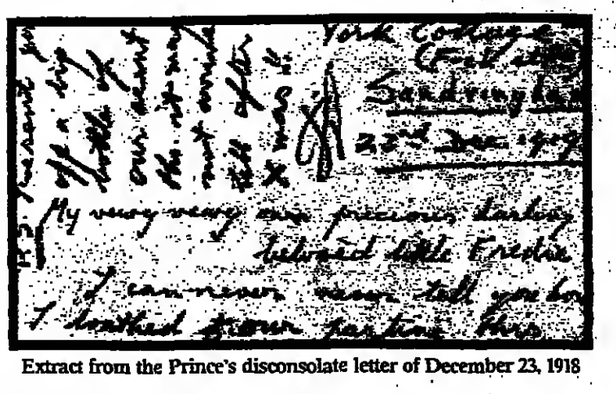
It's o very naughty one, sweetheart, though I know you don't mind & your E is as naughty as ever.

3rd December
Anyhow I shun't return to England before 20th January . . . if I returned earlier I should have to sit at Sandringhnm, Norfolk with my funily where je deviendrais complètement fou [I should have become completely mad].

King's Château, Lophem, near Bruges
9th December
We had quite a cheery party for the last night & HM was in wonderful form & this trip has done him worlds of good & he is quite human; it's getting away from Buckhouse & the real court that does it! Oh!! that court life, beloved one, that's what's going to hasten the end of it if it isn't vastly modified; people can't and won't stand it nowadays & how well do I understand it & ahhor all that sort of rot!!

Headquarters, RAF, Spa
20th January 1919
I'm so miserable darling as I've just got another wire from HM telling me not to return to England, though not to go to Paris & just to carry on visiting DIVS!! Isn't it all too heartbreaking & of course my little brother's death plunges me into mourning; don't think me cold-hearted, sweetheart, but I've told you about that little brother, darling, & how he was an epileptic & might have gone West any day!!

The only known photograph of the Prince and Freda together, with her husband Duddie, right



Extract from the Prince's disconsolate letter of December 23, 1918

Headquarters 38th DIV, near Amiens
5th February
The worst possible has happened, my sweetheart!! HM's letter arrived this morning & he says he doesn't want MOI to return to England until the end of the month. Guess this is the final knock-out blow for thy poor little E & he's just as miserable tonight as he's been in his life!! Gud! what a sordid & mouldy life mine is, though I suppose this is what I've been kept alive for, though HM didn't fail to rub in the fact that I'm ——— mourning & so mustn't go to parties in Paris.

Hotel Meurice, Paris
14th February
I pray that when I return to England I shall be able to spend a lot of time with the only little girl I ever want to see!! Of course we must continue to be as "discrets" as we've always been.

There's a fearful amount of work waiting for MOI in England; all these —— officials are just "straining at the leash" to pounce on thy poor little E & he's going to have absolute hell!!!

> 'My father maddens me, it's hopeless trying to work for him'

Hotel Meurice, Paris
19th February
I'm in a fever & mad, darling, as these —— French papers are full of my engagement to the Queen's eldest girl being as good as official today!! It naturally infuriates me, particularly as the girl has a face like a bottom!!

Buckhouse SW
2nd May
I've had a terribly sordid evening & am not thrilled one atom at having been made a Freemason; Christ, what I think of it all, particularly heavy men's dinners when I have to make a speech.

I must finish this letter tonight . . . & I'm so afraid of missing the past, which would mnke me cry & you "thulky", & I just couldn't bear to think my little Fredie was "thulking" when I wasn't there to "unthulk" her!!!! What babies we both are sweetheart, but I do love it so. [The Prince writes in "baby talk" throughout the rest of the correspondence.]

13th Juoe
I've only time for a short scrawl as I'm in the throes of writing out 3 f—— speeches which I've got to let off in Plymouth.

The Manor House, Hove
14th July
God How I love you love you love you . . . you've made your little boy so blissfully happy, angel, & he's not caring a f-ck for the rest of the world tonight (I'm not a teeny bit toxy darling, vewy sober indeed).

Anchored at Conception Bay, Newfoundland
11th August
Oh! to think that but for a hnrd fight on my part [knowing that it was the right thing for me to do] I should never have set out on this trip at all!! But I suppose we all have a job in the world, though mine is a bl——d— one & no mistake & how I loathe it all & all these camouflaged stunts & having to do the dud hero!!

Government House, Ottawa
31st August
I'm afraid I've been dancing again . . . we had to stop at 12.00 on account of the P of W, not your little boy darling [the Prince had to stop dancing at midnight on Saturdays; his leisure activities on Sundays were strictly limited], *as there are occasions when he & his name are 2 different things . . . but Christ it does infuriate me . . . they are taking me to church in the morning & they won't let me play golf in the afternoon!! Still I made up my mind to leave England officially & to remain so until I returned . . .*

CPR train
4th September
I wish you had been with me yesterday morning, angel, to give hell to a small flapper (12-14) who had the cheek to throw her arms around my neck & give me a foul wet kiss as I was going to lunch.

7th September
I've got thoroughly attached to Canada & its possibilities, it's the place for a man & if I wasn't P of W, well, guess I'd stay here quite a while!! But alas I um P of W!!

8th September
You can't think what joy it is to be clear of my family & the atmosphere of court, which I shall never get completely out of England . . . I don't feel I shall be able to tolerate a scrap of all that balls when I return in November. I've become the completest democrat, angel.

Government House, Victoria
27th September
Christ what I think of life, sweetie & being caged as I am; the fact that every second of my life since we left London has been public is getting rather on my nerves at last & I feel like a caged animal!!

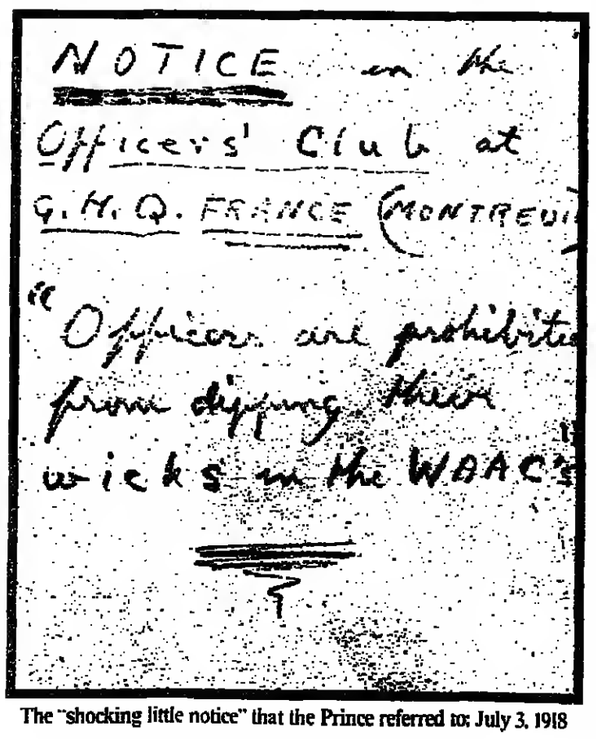
Shooting Club Hut, Lake Francis, Manitoba
12th October
Christ I am fed up with the job of P of W. It's such a hopelessly thankless one, though I've never been rewarded for all the misery of it as I have in this marvellous Dominion. & don't feel I ever shall again, not that I appreciate it all as I should do!!

18th October
What I resent most of all is that my father gets his own way in a mnnner of which he is completely ignorant & spoiling my chances of making good . . . he maddens me, beloved one, & I often feel like turning Bolshy as it's so hopeless trying to work for him!!

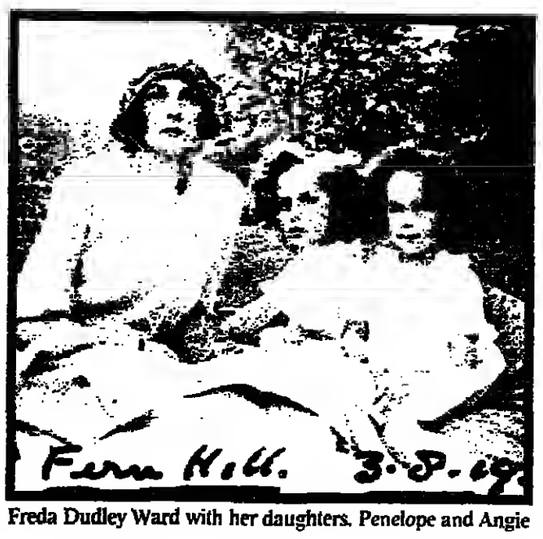
York Cottage (F-ck itttn), Sandringham
23rd December
I can never never tell you how I loathed our parting this morning, angel, although only for a fortnight; 2 weeks out of the short ten weeks that remain before my next f-cking world trip!! . . . I feel so so lost sweetie & as if I'm a guest in a strange house instead of staying with my family; I only feel at home in your house, darling one, and how I'm longing & longing for us both to return to London!!

©Rupert Godfrey 1998

Extracted from Letters From a Prince: The Letters of Edward, Prince of Wales, to Mrs Freda Dudley Ward *published by Little Brown (£18.99). Times readers can buy this title for £15.99 by calling The Times Bookshop on 0990 134459.*



The "shocking little notice" that the Prince referred to; July 3, 1918



Freda Dudley Ward with her daughters, Penelope and Angie

NEXT SATURDAY
IN WEEKEND
HOW THEY KEPT THEIR ROMANCE SECRET

هكذا من الأصل

Let summer live on in a purple haze

How to make something last more than one season is the question that fashion has given thought to of late. There is talk of clothes that work from day though to night and of disappearing notions of seasonal dressing.

It started with designer Miuccia Prada, who creates both the label that bears her surname and the younger Miu Miu line. Her collections blur the distinctions between what you wear to work and what you party in: the Prada label offers satin cut into demure dresses for daytime. Miu Miu contains tweed skirts with enough shimmer to qualify as evening wear.

It's not just the fabrics that are proving flexible. Colour — which once strictly adhered to the rules of dark for cold weather, pale for balmier times — is being shaken up. Those pale lilac and sherbet pink dresses, skirts and tops you bought before summer fizzled out will serve you in the chillier months ahead.

First, use those pinks and purples to uplift other colours. Grey — *the* colour this autumn, set to appear in every shade from dove to pewter — makes the perfect partner for pastels. Wear a pink top with one of this season's steely-toned long skirts or wide trousers, or slip a delicate lilac dress under a substantial charcoal-coloured coat. There are other, subtle interpretations: Jigsaw's dusky rose bias-cut velvet skirt will go to work if worn with a neat grey sweater, then topped with a masculine coat, while French Connection's purple stretch skirt, partnered with a crisp charcoal shirt, makes for a smart, subtly sexy option for the office.

Beyond grey, black and navy are obvious contenders, but white also proves a winner with pastels. Top a pink lace-trim slip skirt with a milky white cashmere sweater (try Marks and Spencer), or rethink the grey coat for an off-white version. Fenn Wright and Manson have a fantastic one in wool.

Even the pastel-tinted lenses of this summer's sunglasses will go with this autumn's colours. Don them — and convince yourself that the sun is just around the corner.

MARK HOLGATE

The author is a fashion writer for Vogue

Waffle and lace stretch dress, £160, Miguelina, exclusively at Browns Focus, 38-39 South Molton Street, W1 (0171-629 0666). Suede mules, £55, Roberto Vianni, Shoe Studio Group, as before

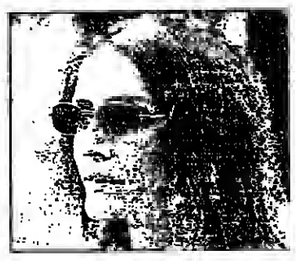
Lilac stretch vest, £21; matching fishtail skirt, £34, Cultura, Urban Outfitters, 36-38 Kensington High Street, W8 (0171-761 1001). Lilac leather fine strappy sandals, £185, Jimmy Choo, 20 Motcomb Street, SW1 (0171-235 0242)

Pale lilac cotton stretch shirt, £10 in sale, (selected stores only) Morgan, nationwide (0171-383 2888). Stretch pencil skirt, £60, French Connection, nationwide (0171-399 7200). Leather sandals, £49.95, Shoe Studio Group (0171-380 3800)

Deep-pink fine-knit top, £49.95, Press and Bastyan (01622 763211). Fine grey wool trousers, £65, All Saints, 1 Great Titchfield Street, W1 (0171-323 3883)

Dusky-pink jersey cowl-neck top, £40, Paul Smith, 40 Floral Street, WC2 (0171-379 7133). Grey fine wool wrap-front skirt, £50, Clements Ribeiro for Dorothy Perkins, 189 Oxford Street, W1 (0171-494 3669)

THREE OF A KIND



TOP
Pink frame glasses, £127, Calvin Klein, Optx, 2 Exchange Arcade, 175 Bishopsgate, EC2 (0171-628 0330)

CENTRE
Glasses, £115, Christian Dior Eyewear, Harvey Nichols, Harrods, House of Fraser (01423 538005)

BELOW
Metal frame and lilac tint glasses, £12.99, Oasis, nationwide (01865 881986)

Photographs by **ANNA STEVENSON**
Hair and make-up by **Firyal** for Daniel Hersheson, 45 Conduit Street, London W1 (0171-434 1747)
Model: **Karine**
Styling by **Amandip Uppal**
Shot at Le Vieux Muner, Provence, France (Bookings: 0131-556 3942).
Car hire: Hertz Europe (0990 996699)

Designed to fit like a glove

for £40

Hendry from the new K autumn range offers the ultimate in style and comfort.
Every shoe is blessed with the most supple leathers,
and is fully leather lined for the most comfortable, glove-like fit.

For further information on the new K autumn range call 0990 665 335.

Mauro Bregoli in restaurant kitchen in Romsey, Hampshire. Although most modern pork meat is, he says, "awful", he produces salami in the traditional Italian manner

Mr Salami's passion for pork

Italian Mauro Bregoli came to England to educate us on the art of making salami — the authentic Italian way, writes **Paul Heiney**

There is a problem with salami. Ever since the rumour started that one of its main ingredients was donkey meat, its *popularity* in this country has been somewhat stunted. But I try to make such thoughts the last on my mind as I visit Mr Salami — Mauro Bregoli, who calls himself a "country bumpkin", but is the only chef at work in Britain making salami as his fellow Italians would recognise it.

He does it in the most English of surroundings, in Romsey, Hampshire. The Old Manor House looks as English as a wedge of pork pie, but on the other side of the kitchen door lies a proper slice of Italian peasant life.

Bregoli, 58, came to London in the 1960s with a missionary zeal to cook Italian for the British. "The problem is," he explains, "that Italy has *no* cuisine. In every town it is different. Why do Italian restaurants here serve all the same stuff? It is the same with salami. Salami, in Italy, is a culture. Every farmer makes his own. They will be the same recipe, but they will turn out different. That," he declares with a sigh of wistful satisfaction, "is the beauty of Italy."

There was a lot of pork in his early life at Ferrara, in one of Italy's gastronomically and agriculturally most fertile regions. "It is where not only salami comes from, but Parma ham and mortadella. Lots of pork!" He licks his lips at the memory of it.

Modern pork meat, he says, is: "Awful. Absolutely awful! You bone it, put it on the slab in the kitchen, and you can watch the water draining out of it. Tasteless."

There was a defining moment 12 years ago when a desperate pig farmer came to Bregoli's front door and announced he was going broke. "... and if I'm going bankrupt, I might as well do it doing something I enjoy". Thus began an association which altered the course of salami history. "This farmer had the idea of crossing wild boar with an ordinary pig and then with an old breed called Hampshire Blue," explains Bregoli. "We started killing them at different ages, and tasting the meat."

Our salami maker in exile was now ready, except for one thing. "I phoned my cousins in Italy. In the villages, in December, it is pig-killing time, a festive day. I told them I was coming over for two weeks, to make salami with different families. Two homes can put the same ingredients together but end up with a *different salami. It is* remarkable: and all due to the weather, the way the wind blows, the moisture in the air. Dry alpine air is no good for salami. You want damp air."

The micro-climate of the Tesi Valley is not far removed from that of his native northern Italy. "We get fog in the morning here, which is good for the salami. Damp air. The only thing that is missing is the real cold. Temperatures in the winter there can get down to minus 14," he explains.

The maestro creating salami that will be hung to mature for up to four months

So, in a couple of months Bregoli will start on next season's salamis. He may make 60 or more, to a deceptively simple recipe. He will use pork loin and shoulder, which he will mix with back fat in proportions 65 per cent meat to 35 *per cent fat*, and he will mince it coarsely. To that he will add salt and pepper and thick, rough red wine. Then he bags it in a natural casing (cow intestine). The salami will hang to dry in a garage which is cool, draughty and gets no sun in the summer. It might take a month, or two, or four — "the skill is in knowing when it is ready".

There is one more vital ingredient. "Every day," he confides, "*I stand before my* salamis and pray that they will not go bad." In the early days, they sometimes did. "I couldn't get the mould to grow on the outside. It protects *them. So I bought some salami* from Italy and hung it with mine, and now the garage is filled with fungal spores and I no longer have a problem."

We taste. On a large board, he has arranged a fat salami, fully six inches broad and next to it a slab of back fat which he calls "lardo" and of which he is very proud. He explains, his mouth salivating, that you slice the lardo very thin, and drop it on to toasted, coarse *bread and allow it to melt* before devouring. The salami, sweet-smelling, hardly greasy and covered in a thin layer of that protective mould, tasted like *no* factory-made salami ever could. It was fresh, despite its age, and tasted more intensely of pork than anything I had ever eaten. Fortified, and with an eye on the door, I cheekily asked the question, "Has there ever any been donkey in salami?"

"Oh, yes," he replies nonchalantly. But he hastily qualifies himself. "Not in salami, but in mortadella, yes. Centuries ago, of course. Mortadella is *not strictly a salami because it* is cooked, and it was made from anything that was not good enough for fresh meat. It was cooked quickly and sold quickly. *Morte* — Italian for death."

If you seek a recipe for a salami feast, I recommend his: You need good friends, good bread, good wine, and conversation. That's salami!

● *The Old Manor House Restaurant, 21 Palmerston Street, Romsey (01794 517353).*

THE LOW-DOWN ON SALAMI

■ Salami-making has long been a common way of preserving meat in European countries.

■ In Italy, every region boasts its own speciality. In the north, relatively few spices are used: in the south, hot peppers and fennel seeds are common.

■ The most popular styles of salami include Milano, Varzi, Felino, Napoli and Branzia and the average fat content varies from 25 to 40 per cent.

■ In 1994, nine Russians were saved by eating salami when their plane, carrying a two-ton cargo of the product, ditched on a frozen lake in Siberia.

THE DRINKS THAT TIME FORGOT

Ovaltine

"BECAUSE we all drink Ovaltine, we're happy girls and boys." So chanted the homely Ovaltinies on pre-war Radio Luxembourg.

In terms of targeting toddlers with their milky, malty product, the Swiss-based manufacturers were ahead of the pack, appearing also on the opening night of British commercial television in 1955.

Such dedication to the young would make a Jesuit blush, but seems to have paid off for Ovaltine, which retains the loyalty of its customers into old age.

A sip of the multibeverage, first launched here in 1909, brings the devotee back with Proustian rapture to a cosy, fireside childhood, with thick blankets, hot, rubbery water bottles, and dear mother.

To anyone not entranced first time around, however, the prospect of malt extract, cocoa and warm milk is a less attractive one, and the flipside to advertising success is that it must forever be repeated or risk the product rapidly becoming old fashioned.

In fact, Ovaltine is one of a number of similar drinks given an extraordinary shot in the arm in the 1980s with the introduction of instant versions, sales of which have more than doubled over the last decade. They are easier to make, lower in fat, and I cannot think of another way to get a child to drink malt extracts.

Quietly, and without anyone really noticing, a new generation of Ovaltinies is being nurtured.

KATE STRONACH

HENRY HARRIS'S CHEAT OF THE WEEK

I AM very fussy when it comes to chocolate puddings. There are those that I like, such as a steamed chocolate pudding with chocolate custard or chocolate sauce, and those that I dislike, such as chocolate tart or any fruit and choccie combination. The acidity in the fruit creates a bizarre chemical reaction in the mouth that destroys the pleasure of eating either chocolate or fruit.

It is sad that so many people will attempt these culinary travesties and then convince themselves that it is a pud worth eating. At the risk of offending those of you who disagree, frankly, you have got it wrong.

I hope my cheat this week will make up for my arrogance. I have two supreme favourites in the world of chocolate. The first is pithivier au chocolat. This is based on the Easter favourite of the French gateau pithivier, which is an almond frangipane-enclosed pie. The chocolate version quite simply blows it away. All credit for this creation goes to Simon Hopkinson, who developed it in his pre-Bibendum days at Hilaire. Served piping hot with a big spoonful of crème fraiche it was, and still is, to die for.

My equal favourite is a chocolate brownie (the best recipe is in the Silver Palate Cookbook by Julee Rosso and Sheila Lukins, Ebury Press). Served warm, crusty on the outside, gooey in the middle and with vanilla ice-cream, no more needs to be said. So, on with the cheat, where we are going to combine the two.

Take one gooey brownie per person and squash it into a ball. Then roll out some puff pastry and cut out two discs using a side plate or something similar. The size of the ball will determine the size of the pastry. Place the ball of brownie on to one of the pastry discs and then brush the edge of the pastry with a little beaten egg. Put the other pastry disk on top, crimp the two edges together and trim off any excess. Transfer to a baking tray and brush the top with a little more egg wash. Make a small hole in the top and then cook in the oven at 180°C for about 20 minutes. This one has to be served with vanilla ice-cream.

I ought to say something about the type and quality of chocolate I use in the kitchen at the Fifth Floor. It is one ingredient where cheap substitutes will not do. Most chocolate sold in the shops has a low cocoa content, which is the vital element. I use a brand with a cocoa content of almost 70 per cent. This has real depth of flavour and delivers that zing of energy that only good chocolate can.

Luckily, there is an answer to the scarcity of top-quality chocolate: join the Chocolate Society (01423 322230). It will introduce you to the world of the real thing, and you will be able to buy a grade of chocolate that will lift your puds to the greatest heights.

● *Henry Harris is head chef at Fifth Floor, Harvey Nichols, London SW7*

Drink

Jane MacQuitty

The restaurant wine list stands accused of the following: overpricing, underselling and being boring

Why should restaurants get away with charging 300 per cent markups on wine when they know and care so little about the bottles they sell? If this figure sounds absurd, the *sorry truth* is that this is a standard restaurant wine markup, with very few exceptions. In some places, bottles can be found selling at eight times the price asked in the local supermarket. This may be fine for the expense-account brigade, who pay through the nose for big-name wines to show off to their colleagues and clients. For the rest of us, who view eating out as a treat, this continues to be bad news.

The most annoying aspect of ordering wine in restaurants, as far as I am concerned, is how little the pages of wine lists have changed since I first *started writing about wine two* decades ago. Yet the food we dine out on has changed dramatically. Ubiquitous fusion cooking, where Pacific Rim ingredients and *ésprit* collide *with British staples and* French style, cannot be matched by old restaurant wine-list clichés such as soave, muscadet and chablis for the whites and beaujolais, rioja and claret for the reds. Indeed, over the past two years the reason why I have ordered the brazen yet thrilling white-currant and tropical fruit-stashed Cloudy Bay Sauvignon so often when eating out, is that it has been the only white wine listed that could cope with fusion food's exciting but aggressive flavours. If you are eating seared scallops with a mango, lemon grass and lime-spiked *coulis*, the only wine that will survive the attack is a turbo-charged New-World blockbuster.

Not *only has the range* of restaurants' wines boringly stayed the same, but crimes in presentation continue to be committed. It is still standard restaurant practice on wine lists to leave out vital information to the wine-interested customer, such as the correct vintage and producer's name. A single, predictable description, chablis or champagne for example, is supposed to suffice. It doesn't. Dual vintages are a pitfall, too, for the unwary; there's a world of difference between the superb '95 clarets and the dreary '94s that preceded them. Even when single *vintages are indicated, the bot*tle often turns up with a different date on it. Plenty of swanky restaurants pass off wines with inadequate or misleading details such as these, safe in the knowledge that few customers will complain.

Another chronic deficiency is a lack of tasting notes. Given that the sommelier has chosen the wines, it should not be beyond a decent wine waiter's capabilities to give a short, annotated indication of every wine listed. The most user-friendly wine lists of all should also classify their wines by style, for those who want a short cut, thus light, aromatic whites, or full-bodied, fruity reds could start the novice wine drinker searching in the right part of the list. And why not a suggested wine for each dish, to make the best of food and wine and bring happy customers back for more?

I also worry about the new trend in restaurants offering large selections of wine by the glass. Brown's Hotel in central London hotel offers no fewer *than 120 different wines by* the glass with occasional promotions carrying the total to 200-plus. That can only mean a lot of out-of-condition, oxidised wine is being sold. No matter *what system* the restaurant uses to preserve its wine after opening, yesterday's wine will have less fruit and flavour, and taste dull and lacklustre when compared to today's newly broached bottle. A wiser route is that adopted by restaurants that limit their wine-by-the-glass selections to six or so, ensuring swift consumption and rotation to keep everyone happy. If this is too expensive or labour-intensive a service, good restaurants should offer a long list of half bottles, top heavy on ultra-popular halves such as pre and post-prandial bottles, including dessert wines, that for most diners do the same job.

Of all restaurant and wine-list crimes, overpricing is the one likely to linger in memories and on overdrafts. The standard 300 per cent markup makes ordinary bottles look *like treats and expensive bot*tles, stratospheric. Restaurants often offer cut-price menus, but few stock corresponding bin-end bargains. Most of us know the price of fillet steak, but very few know the exact price of a *petit château* claret, which explains why restaurateurs disproportionately tank up wine prices.

Restaurants should encourage their customers to trade up to better wines, and increase sales by adding a standard markup to their expensive wines.

● Next week:
Matching food and wine

STAR BUYS

1997 Tyrrell's Wines Lost Block Semillon, Hunter Valley; Wimbledon Wine Cellars, 1 Gladstone Road, London SW19, £9.99

Tyrrell's has produced this superb new "Individual Vineyards" duo from top parcels of Lower Hunter valley vines. This glorious, juicy semillon comes from a late-picked vineyard and has extra-ripe, concentrated apricot and lemon curd-stashed fruit. Serve as a grand, full-bodied winter aperitif or with simple white meat and fish dishes.

1996 Tyrrell's Wines Eclipse Pinot Noir, Hunter Valley; Fullers, £9.99

Tyrrell's has produced some impressive *pinot noirs* and this brilliant new bottling, named after the mail ship that connected the Hunter to Sydney in the 1820s, continues the series. This lovely red burgundy taste-alike, fermented and punched down in open vats before ageing in French oak casks, oozes with strawberry-scented gamey fruit.

In the unlikely event that you are still flush with holiday cash, spend it on prestige champagne cuvées before they sell out. Majestic Wine is selling two bottles of the magnificent honeyed, toasty 1990 Dom Pérignon for just £49.99 each if you buy two, saving £24, *until November 1. At* Oddbins the bottle to buy is Krüg, whose Grande Cuvée (Majestic, £66.49) delivers delectable hazelnut biscuit spice and drops £16.50 to £49.99 a bottle.

هكذا من الأصل

'lightning'

Phone lines for NFU Mutual.

Because, if you live or work in the country, you can now choose a genuinely specialist rural insurance company.

With more than six hundred agents in Britain's country towns, NFU Mutual offers down to earth premiums on home, contents, business, car, horse and life insurance.

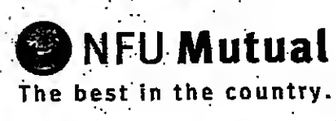
As well as close to a hundred years of experience of country people and country life.

So we're certainly different to other insurers.

But are we as good ?

Well, as a winner of Life Insurer Of The Year at the British Insurance Awards (as well as a finalist in General Insurer Of The Year) our peers certainly seem to think so.

To judge for yourself, call us on 0345 045031 or visit www.nfumutual.co.uk.



Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for investment business.

A VET WRITES

Q Our 15-month-old boxer, Bert, cut his pad last week. We rushed him to the vet who bandaged the leg and told us to take it off in two days and leave it open. The wound hasn't healed and I'm worried because it's exposed to germs. Should it have been stitched and is it safe to leave it unbandaged?

A A dog's pad consists of dead material so the cut edges will never join together, stitched or not. A new pad has to re-grow from the sensitive, live tissue beneath. Prolonged bandaging creates problems. Dogs perspire only from the tongue and between their toes. Perspiration, blood and serum beneath a bandage leads to a soggy soft foot and is an ideal breeding site for bacteria. The open wound exposes sensitive tissue so Bert avoids pain by walking on three legs. In a couple of weeks he'll start to use his bad leg on carpets or smooth surfaces, but will hop along on rough ground because the new, thin pad isn't an effective cushion. Stitching isn't necessary and the sooner the foot's exposed to fresh air the better.

Q My four-month-old Siamese kitten likes eating woollen socks and her furry bed. She doesn't chew, she eats the material, usually after she's finished her proper food. Will this harm her and how can I break this habit?

A Pure wool is not likely to cause trouble, although too much could lead to constipation just as swallowed fur does in long-haired cats. Wool mixtures can be harmful. Wool-eating can occur in any cat, but it's commonest in Eastern cats such as Siamese. There could be an inherited inclination. It won't be easy to break this habit. Get a water pistol and give her a wetting when she touches the wool. Cats dislike the smell of citrus fruits. Put her off by offering waste woollies sprinkled with orange juice. Oil of eucalyptus is said to have the same effect. Washing your woollies in lemon-scented powders might protect them. Take her woollen bed away and let her sleep on newspapers. A spoonful of bran on her food will add fibre and fill the space in her stomach she's reserved for wool. Try keeping a dish of dry cat food (and drinking water) available at all times. Nibbling throughout the day instead of fixed meal times avoids the post-prandial wool-eating stimulus.

Q Vets tell us dogs, cats and ponies need regular worming, but this advice doesn't extend to rabbits, guinea pigs or other furry pets. Why not? Don't they get worms too?

A Dogs, and possibly cats, carry worms of the *Toxocara* species which pose a slight risk to humans. The common tapeworms don't threaten us (the only one that does is barely visible to the naked eye). Worm-infested ponies lose condition and may be more subject to colic than those kept worm-free. Worm eggs from one infected animal are picked up by another. Ponies usually live with other horses, and dogs and cats meet their fellows in parks or elswhere outdoors. Routine worming kills newly arrived worms before trouble arises. Worms are rare in the furry pets, and they don't mix freely with others of their kind. If they are worm-free on arrival, cage isolation prevents re-infection and the need for routine worming.

JAMES ALLCOCK

● *Write to the Times Vet, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.*

SUZANNE HUBBARD

Jasper and Missie need a loving home

ADOPT ME

Jasper, a neutered buck, and Missie, a doe, are five-month-old grey Russian dwarf rabbits who were brought to the Blue Cross two months ago. They have become tame, but should be adopted together, by a family with older children who would spend time with them.

If you would like to adopt Jasper and Missie, please contact the Blue Cross in Cambridge (01223 350153).

REX

Donkeys are led to a platform up to 20ft above a deep water pool into which they jump

Mules will do anything for a carrot

Shocking though it is to some, mule diving is the new attraction at America's state fairs, writes Derwent May

You can just about drive a mule to water, but you cannot make him drink. It seems, however, that you can make him dive.

This is the season of the great state fairs in America, with their competitions for cinnamon buns, blueberry-spearmint jelly, the best macaroni and cheese bake-off and even, in Wisconsin, the world's largest apple-pie.

But alongside these gastronomic pleasures and monsters, there are nowadays more extraordinary attractions — and one of them, which tours most of America, is Tim Rivers's diving mules.

This rancher from Florida has 11 mules, all of which are happy to dive off a 20ft high board into a deep pool of water. Normally, Mr Rivers includes three of them in a show at each fair he visits. They take a good look at the water below them and then dive head first. They get a big round of applause when they clamber out, seemingly smiling, up a ramp, and are each given a carrot as a reward.

Mr Rivers lives on a ranch out in lonely farmland 15 miles from Citra in Florida, which is where he trains his mules. I asked him if it was difficult. In his languorous Southern voice, he assured me that it wasn't. "I only take mules that like water," he said. "Some do, some don't. That's it. I start them low, and then I get them higher." And where did he acquire all his mules? "I just get them where I find them."

Mr Rivers also has a show in which ponies race each other with monkey jockeys on their backs, while a squirrel called Tiggy performs on water skis. But his biggest rivals at the state fairs are probably the leaping llamas.

This is a competition in which private owners enter their pet llamas. There was a big event at the New York State Fair this year. Some of the llamas come on trimmed like poodles. Twelve llamas took part. They were led up to a horizontal wooden pole not far from the ground and encouraged to leap over it. Some refused, some just barged into it. But others went flying over, 28 inches above the ground, and eventually two reached a height of three feet. The winner went over at 40 inches.

It is all a far cry from the Chinese animal carnivals, where stallions fight each other viciously to please the crowds. In the wild, stallions will try to break the knees of their rivals as they fight over a mare. In the Chinese shows, they are goaded on by the presence of a mare in heat. They slash at each other with their hooves and bruise each other but they are held on ropes and carefully prevented from breaking any of their opponent's bones. Their owners want them to fight again.

There is a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Hong Kong that is protesting against these shows, though without much success. In America, shows such as the diving mules are being attacked by such organisations as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, which is supported by the actress Kim Basinger, but there does not seem to be a feeling that they are too cruel to be allowed.

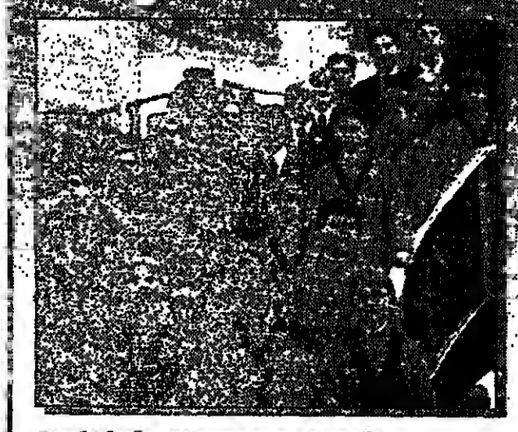
Nevertheless the protesters harass Tim Rivers a good deal. He in his turn is totally defiant. They try to obstruct his caravan as it travels along the roads, or even dive into the pools before the mules do and defy him to let the animals jump. He told me: "I've never lost to them yet." How's that? I asked him. "I just call the police."

The police are on his side because what he is doing is not illegal. One or two state fairs have turned his show down because of the protesters. But for now, among the cotton candy, the helicopter rides and the competitive local cooks, the dauntless mules dive on.

SHOPAROUND

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

Hymns & Anthems



Boys' Choir of Seaford College

25 Glorious Recordings

For The Beauty Of The Earth • Praise My Soul • Abide With Me • The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, Is Ended • The Lord's My Shepherd • What A Friend We Have In Jesus • Eternal Father, Strong To Save • Jesu, Joy Of Man's Desiring • O God Our Help In Ages Past • Holy, Holy, Holy • Love Divine • Praise To The Holiest • Chorale From St. Matthew Passion • I Vow To Thee My Country • Nunc Dimittis • Praise My Soul The King Of Heaven • Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer • Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory • Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us • Amazing Grace • Fight The Good Fight • There Is A Green Hill • All People That On Earth Do Dwell • All My Hope On God Is Founded.

Music & Memories

British Hymns And International Anthems

The Boys' Choir of Seaford College Chapel has travelled all over the globe! The boy singers have performed at the **Royal Albert Hall**, presented hundreds of recitals, and even made an appearance in the British blockbuster hit film, ***Four Weddings and a Funeral***. This exclusive collection is a treasure-trove of glorious and heart-warming hymns, carols and anthems.

MUSIC & MEMORIES EXCLUSIVE!

☎ 24-HOUR ORDERING SERVICE ☎
0990 110 156
FOR ORDERS ONLY

100% Money Back Guarantee

Listen to this collection for a full 30 days. If you are not completely satisfied, you may return it for a full and immediate refund. No questions asked!

Seaford College Choir

Goods are despatched within 7 days from receipt of order. Music & Memories (Dept M720), Hays House, Box 99, St. Austell, Cornwall PL25 3YD. We deliver to all addresses in the UK. Orders from The Republic of Ireland welcome (Punt = £).

© Haysbridge (UK) Ltd 1998

10 DAY DELIVERY!

Music & Memories, (Dept. M720), Hays House, Box 99, St. Austell, Cornwall PL25 3YD.

Yes, please rush me "Hymns & Anthems". I understand that I may return the collection within 30 days for any reason whatsoever and receive a full refund.

☐ 347M Tape £12.95 + £2.00 = £14.95
☐ 347C CD £14.95 + £2.00 = £16.95
☐ Cheque enclosed for £ _____ made payable to Music & Memories.
☐ Visa/Access

Card No. _____

Signature _____ Exp. Date _____

Name _____

PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS

Address _____

Postcode _____

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from other organisations carefully selected by us, please tick this box ☐
Haysbridge (UK) Ltd. t/a Music & Memories. Reg. No. 2771545

HOMES & GARDENS

PICK TOPMOST FRUIT WITH EASE

Pick ALL your fruit in perfect condition safely and easily while standing on the ground. 4 light-weight (4 1/2 OZ) non-rust aluminium poles extend the 'picking head' in 3ft stages reaching even topmost fruit to give FULL 18FT REACH.
The slim head (2" when closed) glides through awkward branches without snagging or knocking off fruit. Simply pull cord to open 3 softly padded "fingers" like a hand to hold fruit individually. Then half twist and lift like a professional picker - if fruit is ripe it comes off easily without tugging.
Gently handles both firm and soft fruits down to plum size. Packs to 3ft for storage. Strong, robust construction will last for years. £19.95 + £2.95 p&p. SAVE £4 - 2 - £61.80 inc p&p.
ALSO AVAILABLE unique WINDOW CLEANING HEAD with 9" sponge and rubber wiper blade. Fits same poles to easily clean and dry even upper windows. £5.95 extra. Money refunded if not satisfied.

PADDED FINGERS HOLD FRUIT GENTLY YET SECURELY — FULL 18ft REACH

MASTERCARD/VISA ORDERS 24 HRS. 01536 720130
JUSTOOLS (Dept TF37) 88 Station Road, Burton Latimer, NORTHANTS NN15 5JW
ORDER NOW - PICK PERFECT FRUIT! PROMPT DESPATCH

JUST ZAPP!

YOUR GARAGE DOORS OPEN

FREE FITTING LIMITED OFFER

POWERED BY SOMFY MOTORS

Imagine the convenience and security of being able to open your garage doors without having to get out of your car.
Guardian's roller shutter garage doors are fully automatic and are operated by a remote, hand held controller.

- Made from tough, maintenance-free aluminium.
- Durable stove-enamelled finish.
- In a range of colours.
- Automatic Locking.
- Tailor made for a perfect fit.
- Fully installed by Guardian's own craftsmen.
- High Security.

FOR A FREE BROCHURE RING
01484 461010 NORTH 0171 581 4443 SOUTH
OR RETURN THE COUPON BELOW WITHOUT OBLIGATION
FREEPOST · SEND TODAY · NO STAMP REQUIRED

Post to: GUARDIAN GARAGE DOORS, FREEPOST, HF3 118, HUDDERSFIELD, HD3 3LL TT12/9/98

MR/MRS/MS _____
TELEPHONE _____
ADDRESS _____
POSTCODE _____

GUARDIAN YOUR PROPERTY PROTECTOR

SCATTER

Clears Cats from your garden

NIGHT AND DAY, EVERY DAY

Unique programme of computer-controlled ultrasound expels cats from lawns, flower beds, shrubberies, walls and fences

Scatter transmits random bursts of ultrasound at a frequency that cats avoid. They'll turn away long before they expose themselves to its full impact, so that it works where fences or netting fail. Fully automatic - no sensors to go wrong. Highly reliable, fully weatherproofed miniature computer circuit.

"Scatter is the only one that works" Classic FM Gardener's Forum, 11th April 1997

SWITCH between low-voltage mains or battery operation at will
NO affect on birds or other pets
INAUDIBLE to humans Scatter is completely safe.
Installed in minutes. Try it for 90 days - 5 year guarantee

Not Affected by Weather

FREEPHONE 0800 282824 FOR FREE BROCHURE
LINES OPEN 24 HOURS 7 DAYS
Customers in Eire call 1800/204 404
Clearflow Ltd., 47-48 High St, Hungerford, Berks RG17 0NE
Tel: 01488 687606 Fax: 01488 685411
e-mail: info@clearflow.ial.ie
TRADE and OVERSEAS enquiries welcomed.

CHANGE THE FACE OF YOUR KITCHEN

THE LOW COST WAY!

For a Fraction of the normal cost

INCLUDING NATURAL SOLID WOODS TO HIGH QUALITY TEXTURED FABRICS • HUGE RANGE OF DESIGNS AND COLOURS

Is your kitchen old, worn out or just plain boring? By retaining the existing cabinets, we totally and professionally refurbish every aspect of each kitchen - replacing doors, drawer fronts and worktops. We enlarge or change the shape by adding new units and top named appliances. There is no compromise on quality, choice or design but huge benefits in time and outlay. From design to installation we think you'll be amazed at what Kitchen Magic can do for you.

SEND FOR OUR FREE COLOUR BROCHURE

PHONE OUR BROCHURE REQUEST LINE
0121 622 6633 — 24 HOUR SERVICE

Kitchen Magic — Established Over A Decade
KITCHEN MAGIC, Monaco House, Bristol Street, Birmingham B5 7AJ

Please send me Kitchen Magic's FREE Colour Brochure.
Name Mr/Mrs/Ms _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Daytime Tel _____ Evening Tel _____
Post to: Kitchen Magic, Freepost, Birmingham B1 1BR.

IT'S AMAZING WHAT KITCHEN MAGIC CAN DO!

هكذا من الأصل

هدية من الاهل

Caring for the granny in your flowerbed

It is time to clear your garden of plants ready for next year's high summer. But make sure you choose a good home for those old friends, writes Stephen Anderton

Getting rid of much-loved old plants is not an easy thing to do. It's like putting your granny in a home. Not very nice, but sometimes it just has to be done.

In the past two weeks I have visited several high-summer gardens that made me want to part with square yards of plants from my garden. Not that there is anything wrong with them. There are unusual irises, peonies, lemon-balm and more. It's just that when you see a garden which *puts* a massive proportion of its effort into the high-summer season, it makes you realise how rich the opportunity for colour is, compared to earlier parts of the season. In a small garden you cannot have your cake and eat it; you *cannot* have a *border at 100* per cent all season long. But you can make sure you make the most of the greatest opportunity — high summer — when you spend most time in the garden.

Plant sales, such as this one in Gwynedd, Wales in May, are a good way to give away or swap plants

So, in September I shall start pulling out the passengers, ready for next year's summer planting. But how do you choose a good home?

One way is just to give them away. Friends who are experienced gardeners may be pleased to get hold of a tall, really delicate *Iris sibirica*, Southcombe White, or a form of *Iris spuria maritima* which flowers so generously, like the one Bill Baker collected in the Rhône delta some years ago.

Pulling out an established clump of any strong perennial is an opportunity to divide it into dozens of new plants. Grit your teeth, and don't divide it unless you want to give it away far and wide. Think of all the time and effort you would spend on potting up and watering the offsets. Let the happy recipient of your plant solve the problem of how to handle the excess.

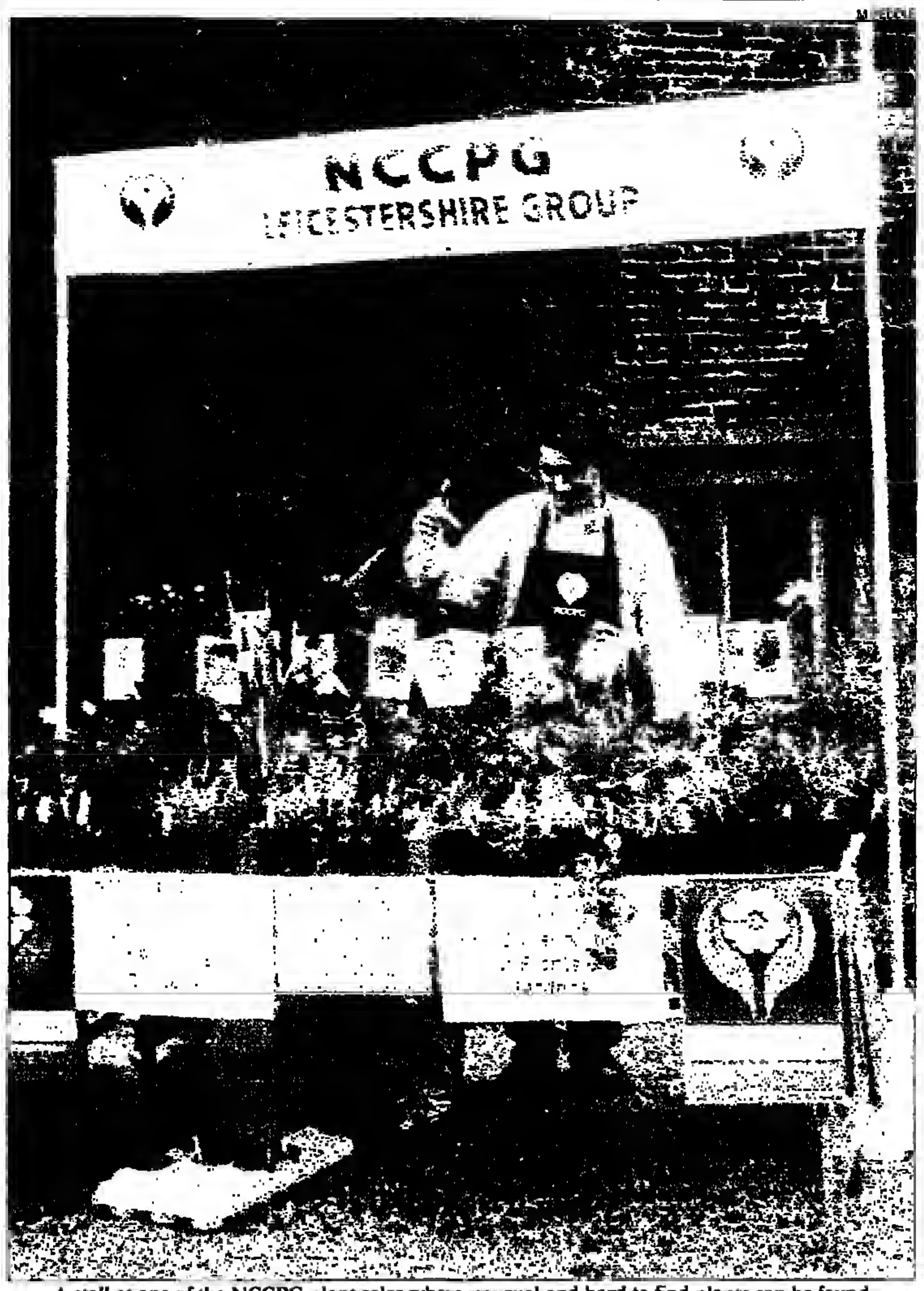
The risk, once you start dividing up clumps of vigorous perennials, is that you will start tucking in a bit here and there, for old times' sake, or to fill a gap. Before you know it, you have a garden quietly but firmly infiltrated by the very plant you intended to send packing. In a few years' time you will have a dozen grannies to deal with. So be brutal now. Get the old dear off the premises, if that is really what you want. Hang on to a tiny piece if you must — an insurance certificate — but no more.

You can always spot a garden where the owner is not brave enough to relinquish a plant. Everything is split and resplit until the whole garden looks the same. It is the fast track to boring gardening. A leitmotif or two, to recur throughout the garden, may be a useful anchor, but having everything everywhere is disastrous.

Remember, there is always somebody who will want your cast-offs. When someone starts a new garden, it is useful and economical to be given generous, dividable clumps of strong perennials. Who can do without hostas and hardy geraniums and alchemilla and persicarias and Sedum Autumn Joy, to get a garden started? If you cannot think of anyone in need at that moment, try the local horticultural club or the WI, or even a note in the post office window. You can make good friends that way. And if you ever want a bit of the plant back again, well, you'll know where to ask. Sometimes the safest way of keeping a plant going is to give it away regularly.

Finding a good home for a really special plant is harder. The way to start is by potting up half-a-dozen pieces, to keep as swaps or to give away. The best new plants find their way between enthusiasts before they appear in the nursery trade. But what about the rest? What if the clump will still divide into a dozen pieces, each in need of a keen gardener?

One way forward is to contact the local NCCPG (National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens) or the Hardy Plant Society. Their sales are a recognised source of unusual plants. The days of bare-rooted lucky-bags at plant sales are gone. Plants established in pots are the order of the day. But if you use a little charm someone may take the whole clump and pot it up for the sale themselves.



A stall at one of the NCCPG plant sales where unusual and hard-to-find plants can be found

WEEKEND TIPS

■ Make cuttings of roses, using pieces 9in-long and finger thick. Set them two-thirds into the ground in a narrow trench lined with sand, in half-shade. They will callus over in winter and begin to root in spring. If they are rooted by mid-March, move them to final positions. Otherwise wait until the next autumn.

■ Sow lawn seed into well-prepared, fine soil which has been lightly dressed with fertiliser. Roll lightly when 1in high, and when it has grown again, top it off lightly with the mower set at 2in. Short mowing can commence next spring.

■ When frost threatens, pull up outdoor tomatoes and ripen the fruits indoors. Ripen melons in frames by keeping the temperature up.

SALE FACT FILE

■ Details of regional groups of the NCCPG may be found through: NCCPG, The Stable Courtyard, RHS Garden, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QP (01483 211465).

■ The Hardy Plant Society, Mrs Pam Adams (Admin), Little Orchard, Great Comberton, Pershore, Worcs WR10 3DP (01386 710317).

■ The Suffolk Group and Plant Sale will be held on Sept 27 in Lady Tollemache's garden at Helmingham Hall, nr Ipswich.

HOMES & GARDENS

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 0171 481 1920
FAX: 0171 481 9313

"NATURE PAINTS THE BEST PART OF THE PICTURE." Ralph Waldo Emerson

JOHN DEERE REFINES IT.
New John Deere Mulching Mowers
The new John Deere mulching mowers cut up to one third off your mowing time, thus you'll find hard work disappears as quickly as your grass.
See your John Deere dealer today.
NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE
For a brochure and your coupon for a FREE John Deere Soil Tester Kit post to: FREEPOST John Deere Ltd. Langar, Nottingham, NG13 9HT
Name: Address:

"Churchill's are the only stairlift company I trust and I thoroughly recommend them to you"
• Installation often within 3 days • Most stairs fitted • Value guaranteed
Call Churchill's 0800 371 982
Call FREE now and ask for Christine, Clare or Angela for a FREE home consultation 7 DAYS A WEEK 9AM-6PM
Nationwide 7 day service
Churchill's Stairlifts plc THE STAIRLIFT EXPERTS

"With a Churchill's Scooter I don't have to lose my independence"
• Free home trial • 'Maintenance free' • Anybody can ride – no driving licence
Call Churchill's 0800 371 982
Call FREE now and ask for Christine, Clare or Angela for a FREE home consultation 7 DAYS A WEEK 9AM-6PM
Nationwide 7 day service
CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE PORTABLE COLOUR TV WITH ALL ORDERS THIS MONTH
Churchill's plc

COUNTAX Loads more Value!
SAVE £503
POWERED BY
Autumn is the time to secure a real bargain when buying Britain's Best Selling Garden Tractor. Select any Countax tractor complete with the Powered Grass Collector and your participating Countax dealer will arrange for you to receive invaluable extras normally sold for £503.
SPECIAL OFFER*
FREE Dump Truck worth £295.00
FREE three year warranty £129.00
FREE Security Clamp worth £79.00
Buy before September 28th SAVE £503
*Offer by participating dealers only on new Countax Tractors fitted with Collectors, at dealers discretion and subject to Terms and Conditions
Send for this brochure and address of local participating dealer
To: Countax, FREEPOST, Great Haseley, Oxford OX44 7BR
Name Address Postcode Tel
FREE 0500 279927
www.countax.com

FRUIT CAGES & GARDEN NETS
Aluminium frames covered with polyethylene netting.
We also specialise in:- Windbreak & Pond Netting, Runner Bean Supports, Cricket, Golf & Tennis Nets, Ground Cover & Fleece
SEE US ON STAND TR5 SOUTHERN ROAD
FREE catalogue & samples
Call 01308 424342
KNOWLE NETS
Dept. TT East Road, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 4NX

FRUIT PRESSES AND CRUSHERS

SEPTIC TANKS
LIQUID BIO FLO is a Bacterial product that eliminates odours and reduces emptyings. For details of SPECIAL OFFER send S.A.E. to Flexford Brook, (Dept J) FREEPOST, Hampshire, SO53 5EE or FREEPHONE 0800 100 171 (24hrs)

Dulux SELECT SERVICE
FOR A QUALITY DECORATOR YOU CAN TRUST
Guaranteed by ICI Dulux
A decorator who has passed rigorous vetting procedures and you can be confident will do a high quality professional job
TELEPHONE LO-CALL 0345 697668

J.G.S. WEATHERVANES
QUALITY BRITISH CRAFTMANSHIP
Over 200 exclusive designs, in 3 sizes, commissions undertaken.
DEPT T HIGH ST EDLESBOROUGH, BEDS, LU6 2HS

Automatic GARAGE DOORS
Roller Shutter Design gives: High Security, Maximum Opening Size, Maintenance Free, Remote Control From Inside Car, No Quibble 5 Year Guarantee, National Installation Service
BEST VALUE
Global Security Shutters
For brochure call Free on 0800 018 8598
Global Security Shutters, Dept. ST, FREEPOST, Welshpool

HARD WATER The scientific solution
Our Promise, soft water or your money back!
Advanced computer technology with automatic 24-hour, 365-day programme
Compact size means installation is never a problem - even in the smallest spaces
Universal performance - Regardless of local water conditions
FIVE YEAR GUARANTEE
Fit Krystal in 5 minutes
Lime scale problems? Krystal can treat the whole house for less than £80!
Hard-water hands? Krystal gives you full soft-water benefits
Clogged-up shower heads? Krystal keeps them clean and clear
Stains in the basin? not with Krystal
Fit Krystal yourself- NO plumbing, NO maintenance, NO chemicals and less than £2 a year to run.
NO-RISK HOME TRIAL - we give you 90 DAYS to try Krystal IN YOUR OWN HOME
Call Free Lines open 24 hours, 7 days 0800 590050 For your free brochure
Customers in Eire call 1800 204 404
Clearflow Ltd., 47-48 High St, Hungerford, Berks RG17 0NE Tel: 01488 887606 Fax: 01488 885411 e-mail: info@clearflow.iol.ie
TRADE and OVERSEAS enquiries welcomed.

WHERE THE GRASS GROWS, IT GOES!
The Allen Wheelctrim makes short work of long grass and weeds with its clean cut scythe action. The Wheeltrim is powered by a four stroke easy start Honda engine with a fast and safe two line cutting head.
£399.95
Powered by HONDA
Be reassured, it's ALLEN
0845 60 10 815

Sabera Trading Company
takes great pleasure to invite you to the exhibition and sale of antique & new fine Oriental Carpets, Rugs, Kelims, Bokhara Sozani and Textiles in different sizes. Antiques, Chinese porcelain, Jewelry and ornaments etc.
On: Saturday 12th September until 20th September 1998
Monday to Friday from 9am - 6pm
Saturday from 10am - 5pm Sunday 11am-5pm
Very Special offers
★ Afghan Beluch 3' x 5' three pieces. For £120.00
★ 6' x 4' Afghan Beluch. For £130.00
★ Gold Afghan 10' x 7'. For £265.00
★ Hamadan 6' x 4'. For £155.00
★ Needle Point 9' x 7'. For £479.00
★ Tabriz 13' x 10'. For £795.00
★ Kashan 13' x 10'. For £995.00
★ Esjahan Red 13' x 10'. For £1250.00
★ Nain Iran 10' x 7'. For £620.00
★ Mashhad 10' x 7'. For £620.00
★ Indian Gabbah 6' x 4'. For £95.00
★ Afghan Chechen Kazak Kaukases in different sizes a sq M £95 only.
● Easy Parking
● Credit Cards accepted
● Valuations of fine Rugs
● Rug repair and cleaning are welcome
We exchange old for new
Sabera Trading Company Unit 15A Atlas Business Centre, Oxgate Lane, Staples Corner London NW2 7HJ
Tel 0181 450 0012

The cat's whiskers: Sprite

A French trip changed think-tank chairman Joanne Foster's view on gardening, says **Jane Owen**

Whatever the time of day, Joanne Foster likes to stand outside and breathe in her garden when she gets home from a busy week working in London

Monet makes an impression

ME AND MY GARDEN: JOANNE FOSTER

We are a short pilgrimage from Oxford. We are admiring "Virgil's bay tree", so-called because the huge dome of scented evergreen — 15ft high — flourished from a cutting taken early this century from the bay tree on Virgil's grave.

It is in the grounds of Confessor's Gate — the house of Joanna Foster, former chair of the Equal Opportunities Commission — whichis close to the spot where Edward the Confessor was born. The pretty village church can be seen at the end of the garden.

This is an informal English garden but it took Giverney, Monet's garden, to turn Ms Foster, chairman of the independent think-tank BT Forum, from a hater into a lover of gardening. Her garden-mad parents, who tended four acres and a burgeoning kitchen garden near Bristol, put her off.

Bin almost 20 years ago, while working at Insead, the business school at Fontainbleau near Paris, she and her husband, Jerome, and two children took over a house with a hectare of land which had once been a pretty garden.

"It was a Monet-type garden with a Judas tree and pines and a walled area. It had clearly been beautiful so we mowed and cut back to reveal what was there. From that moment I knew I wanted to garden," says Ms Foster.

From there, the Fosters moved to Pittsburgh in the United States, where, in spring, extremes of weather made gardening even trickier than our own spring this year — roasting sun at one moment and thick frost the next. But they managed to make a garden of bulbs and a lawn.

Today, gardening is fitted into a week spent mostly in London but, on Thursday nights when Ms Foster returns from her job, she stands outside to breathe in the garden, whatever the time.

"Giverney has been a deep influence," says Ms Foster. "When we moved here I thought, 'if he can so can we', so I planted one area with iris and pink roses. The poppies self seeded. The children enjoyed our garden in France and they like this one."

The soil is alkaline and the garden, wrapped around two sides of the house, faces south and west. Leaky pipe has been buried around most of the beds, with mushroom and home-made compost added. "Like most people, I use a lot of Mediterranean plants, because of the water shortage. So the plants get hurt by frost," she adds.

A conservatory stuffed with geraniums houses an old vine that supplies the Fosters with a mass of eating grapes. Around the conservatory is the new stone terrace, with views across the Oxfordshire countryside.

Apricots loll against the side of the house, blocking out light to the kitchen, and lavender crowds around the terrace.

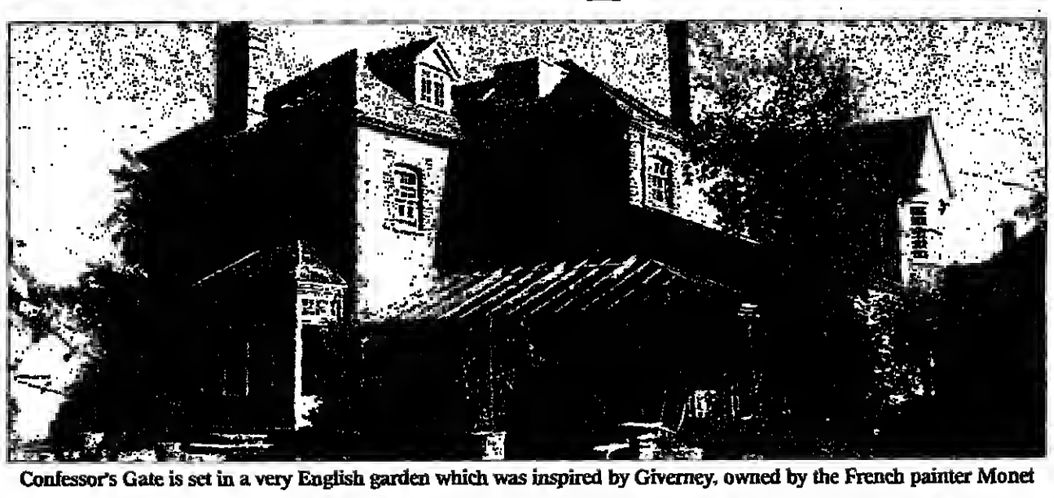
The garden is made in rooms although it is informal enough not to seem so. A beech hedge with an arch through the centre leads from the main lawn and mixed large border to a meadow area with fruit trees that backs on to the church. There is a holy well but Mrs Foster is reluctant to uncover it, because of the pilgrim intrusion that might follow. Instead, will probably dig a separate well to combat water shortages.

An arched tunnel forms a white rose walk running between the meadow and vegetable garden. Behind this is a newly reclaimed area of the garden — once a huggermugger of old sheds and concrete but now one of the Fosters' favourite shady spots in which to eat outdoors.

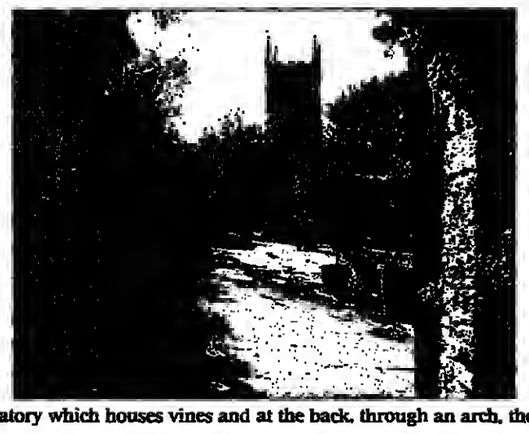
A table sits invitingly under a metalwork gazebo with a few young climbers beginning their ascents: wisteria, golden hop and, behind a table against a south-facing wall, a yellow abutilon.

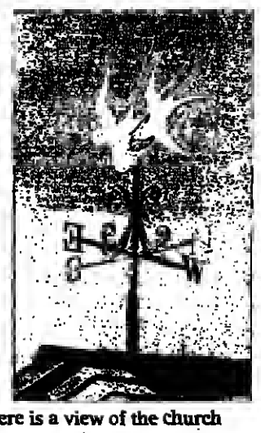
Opposite, above the Monet-inspired part of the garden, clematis scrambles up an aged apple tree. The Fosters have various garden helpers and divide the main areas of responsibility: hers is the main garden, her husband's the vegetable garden where there are lettuces, beans and a few spears of asparagus.

But despite her love of gardening, Ms Foster has other plans. "I am going to learn to relax in this garden instead of doing things to it all the time."



Confessor's Gate is set in a very English garden which was inspired by Giverney, owned by the French painter Monet





The garden has a conservatory which houses vines and at the back, through an arch, there is a view of the church

STEPHEN ANDERTON'S GARDEN ANSWERS

RICHARD ALLEN

Q I am delighted with my hedge of lavender 'Munstead', planted last year. It made a splendid show this summer but is now looking past its best. I had hoped to have flowers into the autumn. Should I cut it back and hope for a second flowering? — *Mrs J. Moore, Wells, Somerset.*

A Lavender does not flower twice, although if you diligently snip out all the first flower stems at the base as soon as they are over, the last stems to open will look fresh again. Once all the flowers have faded, it should be pruned, to keep it dense and shapely for future years. Cut out all the flowered stems back to a point where the first leaves appear.

Q I should like to move my three-year-old *Teucrium fruticans*, as it has outgrown its present position. Should I cut *most* of the foliage back first, and is it best done in autumn or spring? — *Mrs D. Fawcus, Ipswich, Suffolk.*

A This tall germander is not unlike lavender in some ways — aromatic, rangy, small grey foliage, and blue flowers. It is not especially hardy, and can look its best in a cold greenhouse where it will be thoroughly evergreen. Rather than let it roam up to a gangly 6-8ft, it is better to prune it hard every year in late spring to keep it neat. Would this alone solve the problem?

It is not an easy plant to move, and has long, wiry roots adapted to coping with thin dry soils. You could take some cuttings now in the greenhouse, and plant afresh in spring. But if you are determined to move it, do so now. Soak it first, and prune it back by two thirds for stability. Move it with as much root and soil as possible, and water it in well for two to three weeks. Thereafter it needs to spend the winter relatively dry.

Q Where am I going wrong with *heucheras*? My favourite is 'Palace Purple', but I find that each successive year my *heucheras* make a higher and higher woody stem, and the plants and foliage become smaller and weaker. Is there any way to prevent this? — *Mrs M Wilson, London SE10.*

A *Heuchera* 'Palace Purple' is an attractive border plant, with red maple-like foliage and wands of pink flower. It is hungrier than it looks. On dry, hungry soils it soon weakens until finally it fizzles out. In such circumstances it needs regular division into well enriched soil, long before it gets to the stage of having a woody base. Divisions can be set lower in the soil, to stop this legginess developing.

Q I am a very amateur gardener and have grown some white geraniums from seed. They are just coming into flower. How do I keep them through the winter? They are in pots and troughs in my walled town garden. I have no greenhouse, but central heating indoors. — *Mrs B Loving, Isle of Wight.*

A Leave them just where they are, in full sun until the weather gets much colder. Light frosts can be kept off with a temporary covering of polythene or newspaper. You may find that on the Isle of Wight this is sufficient to get them through the winter. If hard-

er frosts seem likely, stand them against a wall of the house, and wrap them up for a few days in polythene. Or put them in the garage if you have one. A few days or weeks of low light will do no harm. They can spend the winter dry, and they will withstand a light frost and low light levels much better like this. Waterlogging kills as much as frost.

In May cut them back to 5-6in, repot them, and they will grow again. Alternatively, bring them indoors in April onto a sunny windowsill, and prune them, to get them off to a faster start, and put them out again in late May.

● *Write to Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. Enclosures cannot be returned.*

Pleasant views and interesting landscapes

Italianate water garden with canal and bridge at Buscot

GARDENS TO VISIT

■ **Buscot Park**
Near Farringdon, Oxfordshire (01367 240786). Open April to Sept, Wed to Fri and every second and fourth Saturday and following Sunday in the month, 2pm-6 pm. Free to National Trust members or £3.30 (gardens only) or £4.40 (house and gardens). Open today and tomorrow.
THE opening times for this lovely garden are infuriating but it's worth a visit. From a wide grass terrace at the front of the house with a fountain at the centre of a splendid view, the main pleasure gardens are not obvious, below the level of the terrace. A series of walks lead down to a lake with a temple and a ridge on the far side. Each of the walks has a different character, the main one straddling an ornamental canal with water lilies at one end. There are statues and a white garden at the centre of one of the walks with some swinging benches on which to sit and consider this landscape made mainly by Harold Peto. The walled gardens to the other side of the house are monumental pieces of planting. There is an unusual mural depicting members of the Farringdon family in the tearooms.

■ **RHS Garden**
Rosemoor, Great Torrington, Devon. 1m S of Torrington (01805 624067). Open 10am-5pm daily except Christmas. RHS members free, or £4.
I FEATURED Rosemoor at the beginning of the season but today there is the added attraction of an NCCPG plant sale. The design of the garden may not be to everybody's taste but the gardeners are knowledgeable and friendly and the plants, of course, excellent. Rosemoor includes the national collections of Cornus and Ilex. The garden is in two main parts: the first developed by the RHS when it was given the land by Lady Anne Berry. She created the second, original, part of the garden, the arboretum, which is on the far side of the road from the first garden and reached by an underground tunnel well designed with a rock landscape.

Knebworth
Hertfordshire (01438 812661). 28 m N of London, J7 off A1 (M). Open 12-27 Sept, Sat and Sun 11am-5pm. £4 (gardens only) or £5 (house and gardens).
THE PARK at Knebworth will be remembered by some for its rock concerts. But it is also an interesting 25 acres with a Jekyll herb garden designed in 1907 but built only recently. Lutyens' involvement was more direct because he married into the family.

JANE OWEN

National treasure, Knebworth House, is also the venue for rock concerts

Statue of Antinous, a mythical figure in

هكذا من الأصل

NEW HOMES

BEWLEY HOMES
BEWLEY HOMES PLC
Quality Homes of Distinction
NATIONAL HOMEBUILDER DESIGN AWARDS 1998

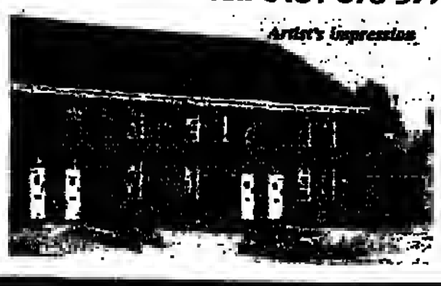
Barnes Gate

Barnes Common, SW London

A select development of 3 two bedroom townhouses with garaging and 5 luxury apartments all with en-suite. Private, secure parking with electronically operated entrance and exit gates. High specification throughout. Adjacent to Barnes Common - short walk to station

Price Range: £160,000-£275,000
Tel: 0181 878 3777

Artist's Impression


Artist's Impression

Thorney Court

Iver Heath, Buckinghamshire

Listed Barn Conversions with High Specification two bedroom, two bathroom set within Thorney Golf Course, around a beautifully landscaped Courtyard. Excellent communications to Heathrow and Motorway Network (M40, M25, M4) and by Rail to Paddington and Reading

Price Range: £165,000 - £175,000
Tel: 01895 437780

Available Soon

- Winkfield Place, Nr Windsor, Berkshire - Set within 20 acres, 4 & 5 bedroom properties available Autumn. Price Guide: £400,000-£600,000. Call 01344 872585.
- Ascot, Berkshire - Five prestigious apartments. Price Guide: £225,000-£300,000. Call 01344 872585.
- Wimbledon SW19 - 2 bedroom apartments and 3 bedroom town houses. Price Guide: £125,000-£225,000.
- Milton Lilbourne, Nr Marlborough, Wiltshire - Two 3 bedroom cottages and individual detached 5 & 6 bedroom homes.
- Oxshott, Surrey - Six detached 6 bedroom homes. Price Guide: £700,000.
- Farnham, Surrey - Twelve detached 4 & 5 bedroom homes. Price Guide: Excess £250,000.
- Weybridge, Surrey - Only eight 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom homes. Price Guide: £180,000-£250,000.
- Henley-On-Thames, Oxfordshire - Only seven 4 & 5 bedroom detached homes. Price Guide: £420,000-£550,000.

For further details on sites without phone numbers please call 01256 840074 during office hours - 9am - 6pm

Available Now

- Cobden Mews, Sydenham, SE26 - 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom town houses. Call 0181 299 0922.
- Enbourne House, Wentworth Estate, Surrey - Mansion House set in 3.5 acres with 6 bedroom suites, enclosed pool area, trip e garage block and staff accommodation. Call 01344 624733. Price: £3.5 million.
- Kingsmere, Putney, SW15 - Substantial 6 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, three storey detached, flexible accommodation in Howards Lane, Putney. Price Guide: £1.5 million. Call 0181 946 0066.
- Sherborne Fields, Nr Basingstoke, Hants - 3 & 4 bedroom homes with a variety of elevations and floor layouts. Price Range: £109,950-£174,000. Call 01256 472191.
- Whittington Park, Wantage, Oxfordshire - 4 bedroom detached executive homes with easy access to Oxford and Newbury. Price Range: £148,000-£200,000. Call 01235 772517.

Sales Offices Open Daily from 10.00am to 5.00pm - www.bewley.co.uk

KENSINGTON PARK, W14

Stunning Show Apartments Now Open

If you'd like a glimpse of how good life could soon be, where better to start than our stunning new Show Apartments at Kensington Park. Every comfort and convenience for modern living at its best, luxury and style wherever you look and a location that's highly desirable and so very handy for London at work and at play.

Computer generated impression of Kensington Park.

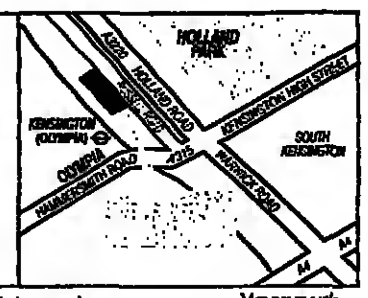
Kensington Park

Just look at what Kensington Park has to offer:
- stylishly designed apartments - many with balconies
- uniformed concierge • lift • carpeted throughout • private parking
- fully integrated kitchen with ceramic tiled floor • fitted wardrobes to master bedroom
- CCTV security system • energy efficient heating & double glazing • electronically operated entrance gates
- New 999 year leases. *Come and see us just as soon as you can.*

HOUSEBUILDER OF THE YEAR

BARRATT
Britain's Premier House Builder
http://www.barrattwestlondon.co.uk

Kensington Park, Russell Road,
off Kensington High Street, London W14.
1 bedroom apartments from £214,995
2 bedroom, 2 bathroom apartments from £289,995
Sales Office open Thursday to Sunday 10am - 6pm
Monday 2pm - 6pm (Late night Thursday open till 8pm)
Telephone: 0171 371 3704 (24hrs)
Full Value Home Exchange Available Now



Map not to scale

All offers within this advertisement are available on selected properties only. Subject to status, contract, availability and normal Barratt Home Exchange conditions.

NORTH OF THE THAMES

BAKER STREET Spacious 3 Bed 3rd Floor Flat in Premier Block, 24hr Porterage, Lift £270,000 Sandfords 0171 723 9988

BARGAINS. Repossessions and Reduced for quick sale props. Capital Property Lists. 7 days 10am-10pm. 0171 288 0288.

CATHERINE PLACE Period house with 4-5 beds + sep lower ground flat, patio garden, roof terrace, bathroom, shower room, cloakroom, £895,000 F/H. Tuckermans 0171 222 5511

CHEPSTOW PLACE W2. Spacious 1st & 2nd floor maisonette, 3 bed, 2 bath, period features, POA. Bruten & Co 0171 229 9262

GRACES MEWS, 20 Abbey Rd NW8. Mews 2 bed hse in lux develop. Swim pool, porter, parking. £420,000. 0171 691 9000

KENTON CRT 6/FL studio on Ken High St. Porter, comm heat & water. £110,000. 0171 691 9000

CHALK FARM, NW1 A characterful mid-terraced Victorian house on 2 floors. 2/3 bedrooms. 1/2 reception rooms. Kitchen. Bathroom. Patio garden. Gas central heating. Period features. Near tube. £265,000 Freehold. Hotblack Desiato 0171 482 2894

GREAT SUTTON ST, EC1. Loft style penthse. Huge recep, gallery, 2 dbl beds, 2 baths, kit/diner, balc & car. £359,000. 0171 6919000

HAMMERSMITH, W6. 3 storey family house in Brackenbury Village, 4/5 beds, 45' gdn. £535,000 Roystons 0181 563 7100

MAIDE VALE W9 Spacious 2 Bed,2 Bth Flat,Prestige Blk,nr L. Venice Urgent Sale, Offers on £235,000 Sandfords 0171 723 9988

NW6 bright 1st floor 2 dble bed flat, 21' reception, short walk to shops & transport (West Hampstead or Kilburn park). Leasehold £139,000. 0171 372 6127.

REGENTS PARK NW1. Bright 7th Floor PB Studio Flat, Views Over Regents Park Porterage £87,500 Sandfords 0171 723 9988

SE1 Metrocentral, 999LSE 2Bed 2Bath Parking Swimming pool Gym 24Ptr Nr E/Castle Tube Must sell Ideal investment £140K Tel 0956 619223

ST JOHNS WOOD, NW8 A well-proportioned third floor flat in prestigious purpose built block. 3 Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms (1 en-suite). Kitchen. Reception room. Terrace. Lift Porterage. Garage parking. £420,000 Share of Freehold. Hotblack Desiato 0171 482 2894

ST.JOHNS WOOD NW8 2 bedroom split level conversion with bright high level ceilings situated above commercial premises on Abbey Road and in very good decorative order. Inc. balcony overlooking Abbey Road. £160,000 ono. 0171 624 0919.

SOUTHGATE 4 bed semi. Clkrm, 2 baths, 3 WC, 2 garages + parkings. Other features. Urgent sale. £180,000. 0181 882 5878.

TEDDINGTON Spacious victorian semi, close to Bushey Park & br stations, and within easy reach of M3 & M25. 4 beds, garage, off street parking, cellar, very good decorative order. OIRO £305,000. Tel: 0181 943 0684

W2 Sussex Place, garage parking space for sale. £20,000 ono. Tel: 0831279232.

W9 Split level 2 bed 1st floor flat, owner o/seas, no agents. £169,950. Tel: 07957 910292

WESTBOURNE Grove W2. 2 bed 2nd floor conversion. Lift, 20' west facing reception. Wood strip floor. £160,000. Leasehold. Westbourne Estates 0171 727 8612.

SOUTH OF THE THAMES

BATTERSEA SW8/Gambetta st Grd flr 2 bed patio flat, good cond, GCH, own entrance, 83 yr lse. £120,000. 0171 3512854.

PRINCE of Wales Drive Spacious 2 dble beds, grnd flr Mansion flat o'looking park. £250,000 inc all appliances. Call 0171 720 1821

THAMES EMBANKMENT, SE1 A quietly located double fronted elegant period house within walking distance from the South Bank and Waterloo stations. 2 double bedrooms, Kitchen/diner. Bathroom. Large dry cellar. 30' South facing garden. £395,000 Freehold. Hotblack Desiato 0171 482 2894

WATERLOO SE1: Grd II Georgn terr hse in conserv area. Dining rm, sitting rm lge kitch, shwr/util, cellr, 3 beds, bath, S-fcg gdn. Goldie £275K. 0171 928 6669.

CAMBERWELL/OVAL
Spacious Victorian family house c1890 adjacent to delightful park/tennis courts etc.
6 beds, 3 receps, 3 baths, cellars etc. Handbuilt limed oak kitchen, Elegant conservatory, secluded garden, fountain/fishpond.
15 mins Victoria/City/The House
£500,000 (no chains)
Tel/Fax: 0171 733 7757

KENNINGTON
Division Bell
Versatile Georgian townhouse. 4 Beds, 5 Storeys, magnificently restored, front & rear gdn. 15 mins City or West End.
Freehold £375,000
0171 582 2444

CITY & WEST END

BARBICAN EC2 1 & 2 bed From £165,000 upwards Daniel Watney 0171 253 4414

BARBICAN EC2 1 & 2 bed From £166,000 upwards Daniel Watney 0171 253 4414

BLACKFRIARS SE1 2 bed flat, balcony, 964 sqft. £169,950 Hurford Salvi Carr 0171 250 1012

BLOOMSBURY WC1. Superb 2 bed mans, pretty gdn. £225,000. Hurford Salvi Carr 0171 250 1012

CITY BORDERS N1. 1 bed raised GF flt,period hse£86,000 S/F. Stock Page Stock 0171 251 4171

EC1 2 bed, 2 bath, P/B lux flat, porter, park view, nr tube, superb, L/H, £226,000. Tel: 0181 2626248 or 0958 932771.

GARAGES. Portland Place (close) single and double from £2,500 - £4,500 p.a. HHB 0171 637 0821.

CITY & WEST END

TOWER HILL Underground Station 500 metres. Last remaining apartments and maisonettes. Prices from £139,995 - spec. inc. gym, porter, garage parking, courtyard garden, secure entry plus extras. Ring 0171 480 6815 or 0171 481 4118

W2 2 adjoining period unmodernised houses. Planning permission granted for 2 5 bed houses. Offers invited. 0171 328 5626.

WAPPING 2 bedroom 1st floor. Garage. Quick sale required. £127,000 0171 481 4088

WAPPING 2 bedroom 1st floor. Garage. Quick sale required. £127,000 0171 481 4088

BELGRAVIA

EATON PLACE, SW1. Newly refurb 2 bed apmt, Reception Room: Kitchen: Master Bedroom with ensuite Bathroom: Second Bedroom with ensuite Shower Room: Cloakroom: Communal Central Heating & Hot Water: 24 Hour Resident Porter: Use of Communal Garden: Lease to 2035 £525,000 Best Gapp 0171 730 9253

EATON TERRACE, SW1. Freehold family hse over 6 floors. Entrance Hall: Recp: Din: Kit/Fam Rm/Cons: B/fast Rm: Master with ensuite: 5 further beds: 1 Bath: 2 Shwr: Sauna: Clock: Utility: Gdn: Terr: £1,550,000 Best Gapp 0171 730 9253

CITY, DOCKLANDS & EAST

LIMEHOUSE E14 An exclusive waterside development of 3 and 4 bed/3 bath town houses with garden and integral garage or private parking and 1,2 and 3 bed luxury apartments with balconies or terraces and private parking, just a short walk from Limehouse Basin, the River Thames and Limehouse DLR station. Apartments from £112,995, townhouses from £199,995. Part exchange considered. Call Commercial Wharf on 0171 531 9914

NEXT to River Thames. 4 bed Townhouse, garage and parking. Newly decorated. Vacant possession. £285,000. 0171 481 2646

HIGHBURY/ ISLINGTON

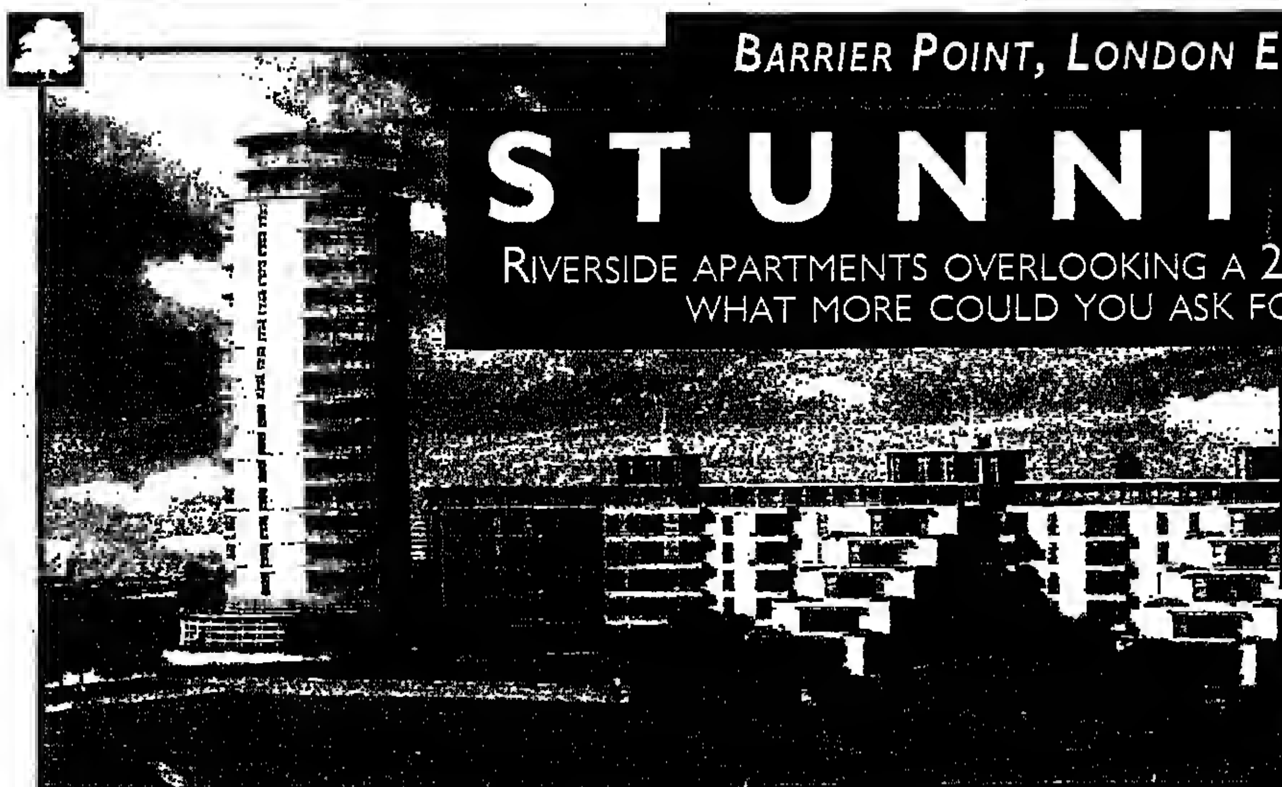
N1 Immaculate freehold terraced house in quiet tree-lined road in Canonbury cons. area. 3 beds, 1 bath, 26' sitting room, conservatory, walled garden, garage £349,000. 0171 226 7975.

RIPPLEVALE GROVE N1 2 bed Georgian terraced house dble reception, dining rm, kit with aga, util, bath, cloakrm, 40'garden £439,000. Day 0589 770 684 Eve 0171 609 3863

BARRIER POINT, LONDON E16

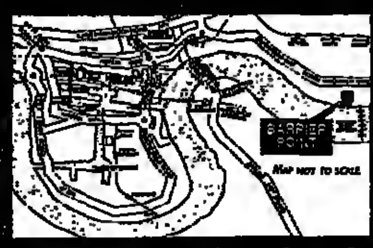
STUNNING

RIVERSIDE APARTMENTS OVERLOOKING A 23 ACRE PARK
WHAT MORE COULD YOU ASK FOR?



PEOPLE WITH IMAGINATION & VISION ARE BUYING NOW FOR 1999 & BEYOND ON ONE OF THE FASTEST SELLING DEVELOPMENTS IN DOCKLANDS COME & SEE WHY FOR YOURSELF.

CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION. 1 BEDROOM, 2 & 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATHROOM APARTMENTS WITH 999 YEAR LEASES. MOST WITH TERRACES OR BALCONIES. LIFTS, UNDERGROUND PARKING AND A SUPERB RIVERSIDE RESTAURANT. *FROM £88,950 TO AROUND £200,000.*



BARRATT
Britain's Premier House Builder

To view the plans and the model of these exciting new apartments, visit the Marketing Suite at Barrier Point, North Woolwich Road E16. Open Thursday to Sunday inclusive from 10am - 6pm. Monday 2pm - 6pm. Tel: 0171 511 4139. *Computer generated impression*

TO ADVERTISE CALL:
0171 481 1986 (TRADE)
0171 481 4000 (PRIVATE)

PROPERTY
£60,000 - £150,000

FAX:
0171 782 7828 (TRADE)
0171 782 7799 (PRIVATE)

MOVING HOUSE?
PRIVATE PROPERTY FEATURE

THE SUNDAY TIMES
THE TIMES

ADVERTISE YOUR PROPERTY IN BOTH TITLES FOR ONLY

£299

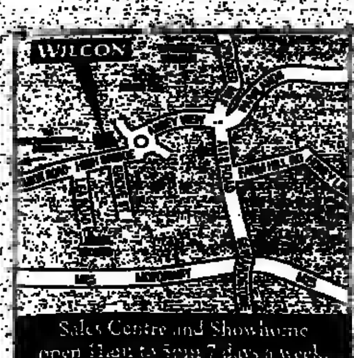
The Sunday Times and The Times are producing a series of Property Supplements, providing a Private Sales section for you to advertise your home for up to 50% of the usual cost

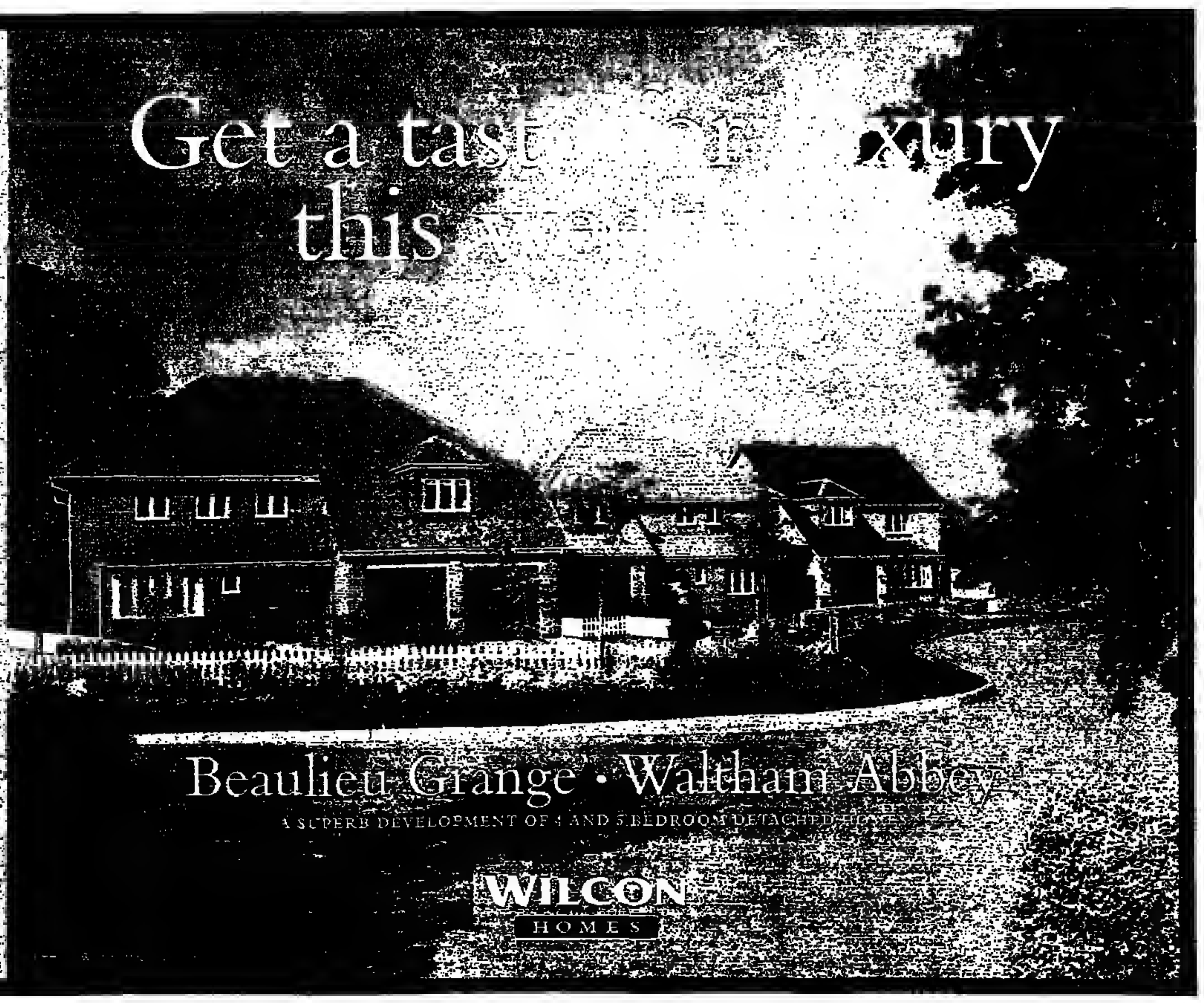
For availability and copy deadlines
CALL NOW
0171 481 4000
PRIVATE ADVERTISERS ONLY

You'll be delighted with the picturesque surroundings of Beaulieu Grange and pleasantly surprised at the range of top quality features you'll find in a Wilcon Home.

- **Riverside location**
- **Private gated courtyard**
- **Fully fitted Pepper kitchen**
- **Smooth plastered ceilings**

For further details contact us on **01992 760247**





The cat's whiskers: Sprite

Matthew Parris is camped out in the Catalan Pyrenees, toiling from dawn until dusk on the restoration of his medieval ruin

How the earth moved for me

MONDAY
My stone steps — strange voices

I'm alone. All sense of time has gone and life's proportions shift. There's something in the news about the rouble — but *the stone steps I'm building are all that* matter now. The work has been painfully slow — two, at the most three, steps a day — and backbreaking. I've moved (I reckon) five tons of stone and rubble. But I cannot lift or manoeuvre a flag wide and deep enough to form a single tread, so each step is a composite of liftable flags and wedges.

I work from first light till dusk, snoozing at noon but hardly bothering to eat — getting *thinner* but feeling strong. I'm not lonely any more — I'm used to the silence. When family call by I find all the chaner noisy and end up unfocused, staring into space. I'm very happy. Before dawn, after the owls, I heard again something I thought I heard before: a low *grumbling as of* indistinguishable voices in a downstairs room or a strong current over heavy river-stones. It comes from no direction in particular. I cannot place it. There is nothing frightening about it: nothing frightening about anything in the air at l'Avenc.

TUESDAY
A letter

The family brought a letter, from Holland. A nice Dutch lady has read *The Times* and wishes to encourage me. She addressed the envelope to me at "Casa l'Avenc". But l'Avenc is a ruin unrecognised by the Spanish Post Office — not an address. And I — not being resident in Spain — am unknown to it.

She also omitted the province. All the *Correos had to go on* were the names of two small villages she mentioned (with question-marks), some 30kms from each other. L'Avenc is in neither. Then she put the name of a town 40km away, and (in brackets) the route-number of a local road — but l'Avenc is not on it and it is 100km long.

Mistaking the Spanish for "road" she wrote, in effect, "horse race". We often praise the ingenuity of our British Post Office, but there are inspired postmen in Spain, too.

I can guess who this will be: Josep-Maria, a local farmer's son and keen sportsman. He temporarily lost his job as postman when the bureaucrats insisted only a qualified civil servant could do the job.

Catalan commonsense triumphed, over Madrid red-tape and Josep-Maria was reinstated. Thank goodness. He knows my mother, will have seen the envelope and put two and two together. This would be like sending a letter to someone not resident in Sussex, marked "E Wittering? Petersfield? Chichester. Horse race A3. Britain."

WEDNESDAY:
Find water

Hooray! We've struck water. I was assured that there was a water pipe somewhere near l'Avenc and there must be, for there's a cattle-trough bath in. But my nephew Adam and I dug and dug for hours where it ought to be — and finished with a big, empty, useless trench.

Then Kim, my *brother-in-law*, came by, idly lifted a flat rock nearby — and there was the steel pipe, with a tap. Adam opened it and a 30ft spout of water drenched us all. But who cares? It ran rusty for a while, then sweet.

THURSDAY:
To plaster, or not?

An architectural historian points out small patches of primitive plaster clinging to the external stone. A grand house like this, he says, will have been plastered. Almost disappointing — the warm, rough stone was what first drew me to l'Avenc.

An authentic replastering with quicklime, though, would look anything but cold and hard. Should we? Such decisions are far off — the roof is falling in, for heaven's sake.

FRIDAY:
Steps near complete
Wild thyme in walls
Standards slip

Only four or five stone steps to go. Now they go high enough for me to clamber up the rest of the wall to where my caravan is parked.

Superstitiously, I resolve at first to continue going the long way round, saving my inaugural ascent for the moment when the final tread is complete. But resolution slips. I tear wild thyme in tufts from the walls, where it's in the way — and remember the struggle to make it take in the garden at home in Derbyshire.

Later, alone, I start eating things from jars and packets, shortcutting utensils and crockery. I'm hardly Somerset Maugham's Englishman, dressing alone for dinner and reading *The Times* in date order, three months late.

I've only been here for a few weeks and already I'm wandering around in my underpants and drinking from saucepans. Beard growing. Grey! Oh no!

SIMON WALKER

For £416,000 a year this palace could be yours

This may be the most opulent house to let in London, says **Rachel Kelly**, but there are no takers just yet

RENTS OF THE WEEK

The Andrews' house in Hyde Park Gate is arguably the most expensive house in the country to rent — or it was. When its £10,000 per week price tag for a short let was leaked to the press, Georgina Andrews was quick to take it off the market, saying she wanted "to avoid adverse publicity".

Even her husband, Anthony Andrews, the actor, was surprised at the suggestion from his agent to rent out their London home for £10,000 a week. "I know a lot of embassies might be interested," he commented, "but surely we'll never get that sort of money".

The double property situated in a cul de sac opposite Kensington Gardens does have a fine pedigree — it was formerly lived in by Sir Winston Churchill. Prospective tenants would have also enjoyed a baronial-style dining room, a large garden, five bedrooms and three bathrooms.

Such exorbitant sums are no longer unheard of, however, as earlier this month their agent, Knight Frank, achieved a let of £8,000 a week — rent paid up front for one year — for a house in Chester Square, London SW1.

But for opulence, rather than restrained English style, nothing beats a house in Holland Park that is currently on offer. This is an Arab potentate's palace. Its owner is a man who prefers not to be named, nor his country identified, though there are Moroccan touches to the decor.

We do know that he is a late riser and that letting agents Hamptons do not usually make appointments before 11am. He drives a blue Rolls-Royce which lives in the double-garage in the basement, and is a chocoholic who has truffle-filled dishes in every room. His love of drama and fantasy is in evidence from the cinema screen that descends over the bejewelled mosaic pool; and his strength of feeling for his family is shown by the photographs — the only personal touch in the reception rooms.

The ten-metre swimming pool: a cinema screen lets you watch films while you swim

But he is no electrician. For all their frescoed splendour and gold leaf, almost every room had wires left dangling somewhat dangerously. Nor is he an art connoisseur. There is hardly a picture hanging anywhere in the house, except for a framed piece of carpet.

We work from the bottom of the house to the top. Not a wall, fireplace, door or floor of the late 19th-century, white-stuccoed house remains in its original condition. Instead, heavy, sculpted teak double doors have replaced the panelled originals, cream and black, mosaic stone floors cover the floorboards, and vast carved stone surrounds now dwarf the fireplaces.

The formal gardens of a house that is 'perfect for parties'

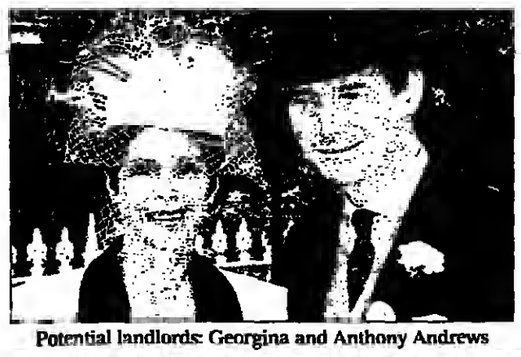
The house has been extended into the 100ft garden to make room for the ten-metre pool and an adjoining billiard room, the roof of which is a stone terrace overlooking the formal garden. As the agent, Rebecca Haythornthwaite from Hamptons, said, it would be perfect for a party.

The pool is perhaps the house's single best feature. There is nothing pokey about it; it takes up nearly the entire width of the 80ft-wide house. Light pours in from the glass doors on to the garden and plays on the coloured stone. The room, with its palm trees, has a real holiday feel. Low-slung chairs and kelim cushions tempt from the poolside. There is a Jacuzzi, steam room and shower room. I desperately want a swim. It seems extraordinary that, outside, Kensington residents are going about their chores.

On the ground floor to the right of the door is a darkened dining room, painted in gold with a mahogany table which can seat 14. There is a cleverly concealed servery to the rear, where staff can be concealed, and an elaborate Venetian glass chandelier.

To the left is the burnished gold-and-cream drawing room, with ceiling cornicing and a central table. The room runs the width of the house and overlooks the garden, its window draped in what looks like gold lace. There are five seating areas, each with a sofa draped in red velvet.

Potted orchids, not all of them healthy, collections of enormous candles, and displays of willow branches decorate the ornate desks and side tables, while tapestries adorn the walls. The room is lit by chandeliers. Rather unnervingly, you can hear the whoosh of water pouring from the urns in to the pool down below.



Potential landlords: Georgina and Anthony Andrews

Upstairs, the caramel marble staircase leads to a surprisingly delicate duck-egg-blue bedroom that has been made by knocking the front three rooms into one. The double bed is covered in a gold lace bedspread. There is an en suite bathroom with a claw-footed bath, a frosted glass shower and his-and-hers cupboards — although in any other house they would qualify as rooms.

On the second floor there are three more bedrooms, all with bathrooms, their cool modern sophistication and pale walls somewhat undermined by the teddies which fill the fireplaces. One bath is decorated as a boat. Another bathroom seems to be part of a Greek temple. In all there are nine bedrooms and seven bathrooms, plus a study, snooker room, two cloakrooms, kitchen and breakfast room. Staff rooms are tucked under the front steps and in a cottage at the end of the garden.

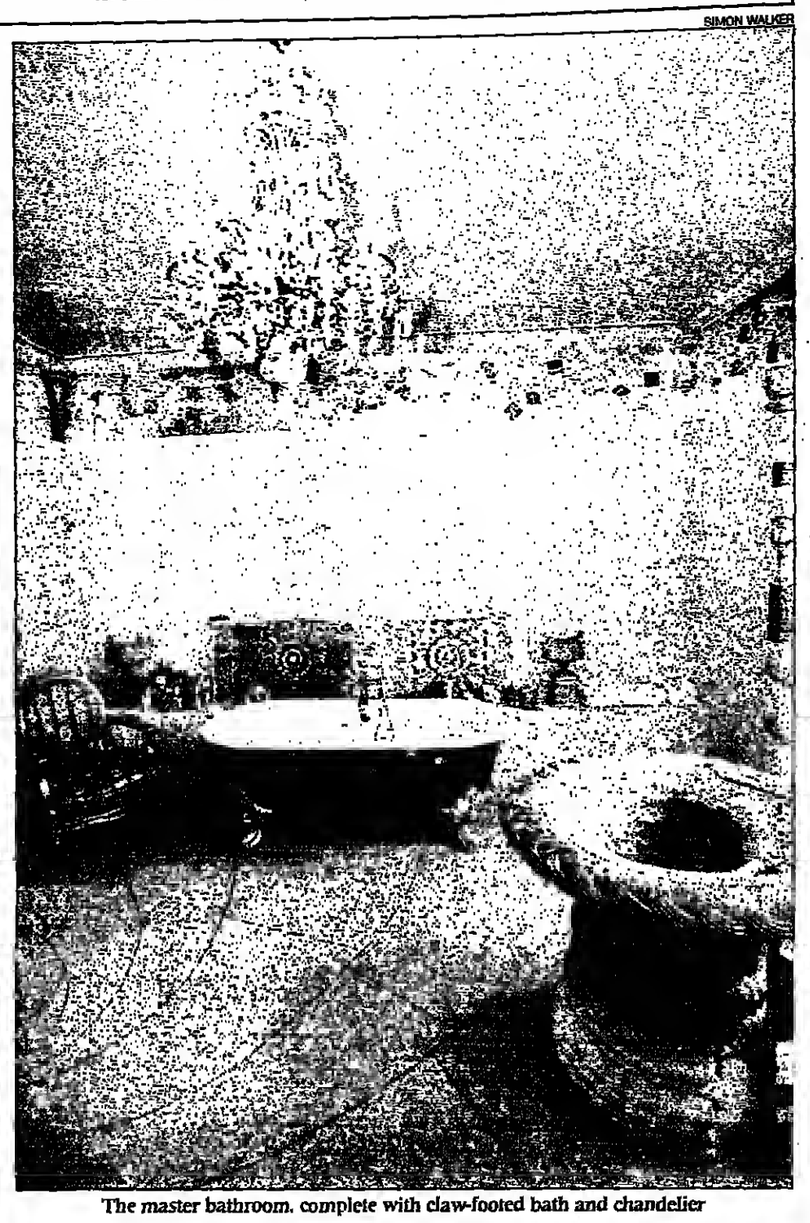
This is a house for serious entertaining. The American Ambassador considered renting it while his own house in Regent's Park was being redecorated, but decided on a house that backs on to Holland Park instead. But its price tag could dissuade even the wealthiest of renters.

In the same area, Tom Cruise is reputed to have spent £5,000 a week on rent, and Pierce Brosnan rented for £4,000 a week in Hampstead.

But after a month only four prospective tenants have visited the house, and none have yet signed up. Perhaps the annual £416,000 rental is too high, although the owner is said to be open to negotiation.

That old trick of coffee beans in the oven might help.

■ Agents: Rebecca Haythornthwaite at Hamptons International (0171-937 9302) Knight Frank (0171 629 8171)



The master bathroom, complete with claw-footed bath and chandelier

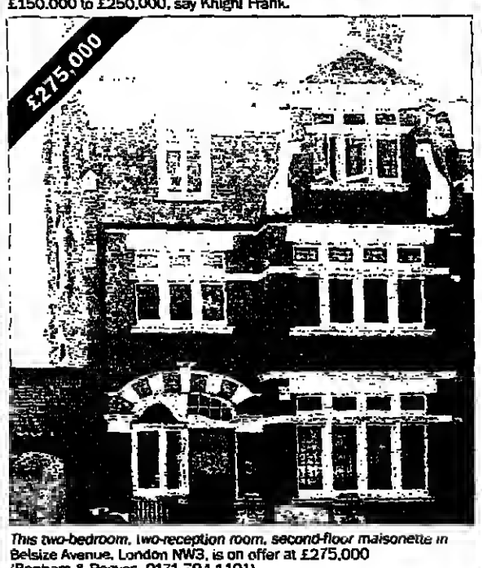
The Andrews' London home, in Hyde Park Gate, could rent for £10,000 a week

HOME SWAP

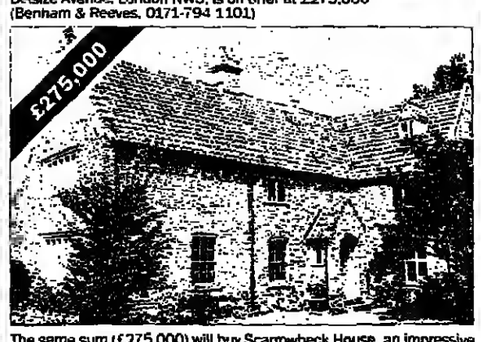
PRICES are moving up in London's Belsize Park, but slowly. The market for flats costing less than £250,000 is still active say estate agent Foxtons, but buyers are becoming more selective. A high-ceilinged one-bedroom flat in a stuccoed house costs from £140,000; two-bedroom garden flats from £200,000 to £300,000.

Buyers from London are driving up prices in Norfolk, say Savills. The north Norfolk coast has seen price gains of up to 15-20% for period houses. Brick and flint cottages from Blakeney to Hunstanton are priced from £80,000 to £120,00 for three bedrooms. Period rectories with up to eight bedrooms and five acres of land fetch from £300,000.

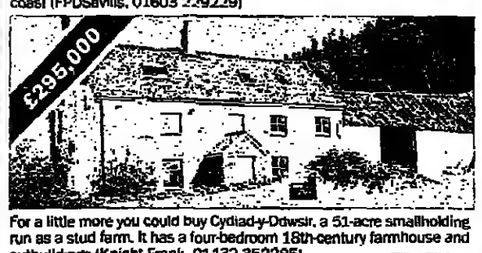
High prices in the Cotswolds are driving London buyers to the Welsh border, where prices are 30 per cent lower. Farmhouses with land in the Usk Valley, between Abergavenny and Crickhowell, are priced from £150,000 to £250,000, say Knight Frank.



This two-bedroom, two-reception room, second-floor maisonette in Belsize Avenue, London NW3, is on offer at £275,000 (Benham & Reeves, 0171-794 1101)



The same sum (£275,000) will buy Scarrowbeck House, an impressive Grade II listed six-bedroom 16th-century house, overlooking farmland, at Erpingham near Bylesham, about eight miles from the north Norfolk coast (FPDSavills, 01603 229229)



For a little more you could buy Cydiad-y-Ddwsir, a 51-acre smallholding run as a stud farm. It has a four-bedroom 18th-century farmhouse and outbuildings (Knight Frank, 01432 352285)

CHERYL TAYLOR

MARKET COMMENT

THE WESTERN side of central London — Notting Hill, Kensington, Holland Park — ranks among the most desirable corners of the metropolis. With impressive architecture, a sprawl of trendy shops and restaurants and excellent Underground connections to the West End and the City, it's not difficult to understand why accommodation here commands a substantial premium.

You do not, however, need to spend anything like £8,000 a week, or even a tenth of that sum, in order to be where the action is.

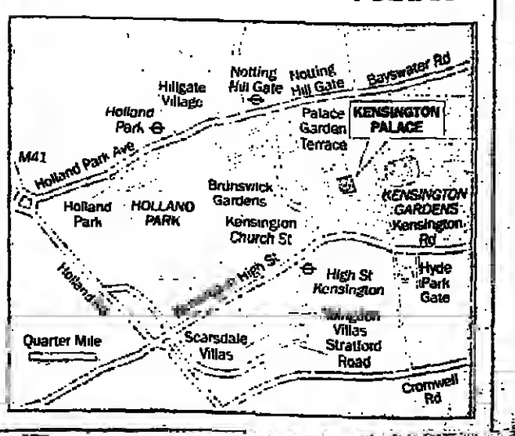
Decent one-bedroom flats for rent on the books of Hamptons International start at about £300-£350 per week, with two-bedroom apartments available for anything between £400 and £1,000 and modest three-bedroom houses from about £750 per week.

A bargain? Not really, when you think that £750 per week amounts to about £3,000 a month — well beyond the reach of most domestic renters. But this is a part of London where professionals on corporate postings dominate the rental scene. There are a few British families renting while they find somewhere to buy, a scattering of young professionals who have not yet embarked on the property ladder and even some particularly well-heeled students; but according to Hamptons International, 80-90 per cent of clients are from overseas. America, France, Switzerland and Germany are among the most common nationalities, and most of them are here on corporate lets.

For the sort of money they are willing to pay, however, they want immaculate places — power showers, classy interiors, space, on attractive roads close to the Tube. "They have very high expectations and interesting-scruffy isn't acceptable any more," says Hamptons spokeswoman. Once you start looking at serious houses, the rental sky is the limit. Well, it's £8,000 a week. But you could easily pay £2,000 per week for a decent-sized family house: Hamptons cites "a nice five-bedroom family house" for £3,250 per week and a sumptuous eight-bedroom mansion with offstreet parking for £4,800 per week. That's £20,800 per calendar month.

Understandably, its power showers are "top of the range". Roads in the vicinity particularly popular with renters include Palace Garden Terrace, Holland Park, Brunswick Gardens, Hillgate Village and Abingdon Villas.

FAITH GLASGOW



هكذا من الأصل

LONDON PROPERTY

GALLIARD HOMES LIMITED

FROM 24TH SEPTEMBER
WILL PAY THE 10% DEPOSIT

AT RIVER VIEW
2 and 3 bed apartments all with stunning views of the River and the Millennium Dome
0171 537 1473

AT BUTLERS WHARF
TAMARIND COURT
2 bed apartments in spectacular warehouse conversion.
0171 378 0474

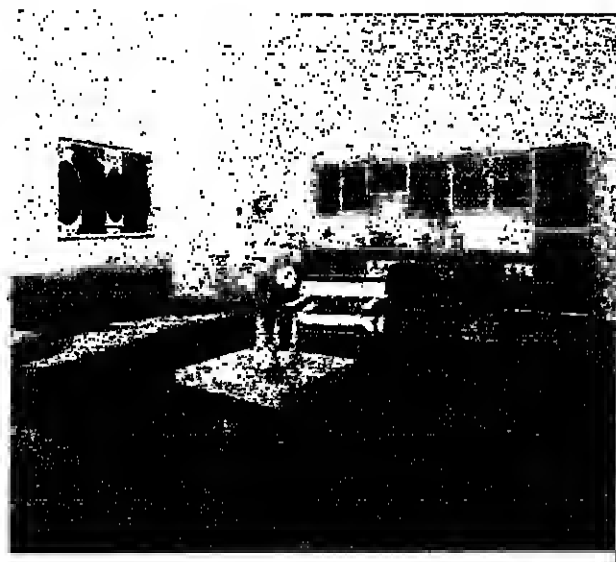
AT RIVER VIEW
OLD BELL GATE, DOCKLANDS
2 bed apartments many with dramatic views over the Thames and Millwall Docks.
0171 515 1939

www.galliard-homes.co.uk

ON ALL PROPERTIES OVER £165,000
WHICH ARE COMPLETED BY END OF 1998

NEW HOMES

Crisp, colourful and contemporary.



APEX

60 - 63 Bunhill Row
London EC1
Prices from
£138,000 to
£275,000

The Apex offers a great choice of 1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments in a vibrant cosmopolitan area between Clerkenwell and the City, just minutes from Old Street underground station.

New show apartment open 7 days a week
Monday to Friday 10:30am to 6pm and
10:30am to 4pm Weekends.

Tel: 01494 787201

For more details please phone
HURFORD SALT CARR
0171 250 1012
37-41 ST JOHN ST LONDON EC1M 4AN
FAX 0171 250 1015

Berkeley HOMES
QUALITY TO APPRECIATE

NEW HOMES

Globe View, London EC4

OUR MENU EVEN INCLUDES A FEAST FOR THE EYES

Choose a warehouse apartment at Globe View and you can stay home and dine in style, stroll along to a nearby restaurant or wine bar, whet your appetite for history and heritage without going more than a couple of miles or simply sit back and enjoy the spectacular views of the Globe theatre and the Thames. Endless pleasures a la carte, wouldn't you agree?

- 1 & 2-bedroom warehouse and atrium apartments.
- Warehouse apartments, some with stunning river views, many with balconies.
- Atrium apartments with balcony or terrace overlooking a breathtaking landscaped interior with spectacular focal point fountain.
- Luxury fitted kitchen with integrated appliances including stainless steel oven, hob & hood. Also washer/dryer, fridge/freezer & dishwasher.
- Carpeted throughout, with ceramic floor tiles to kitchen.
- Concierge service. • Security entry system
- Lifts to all floors • Views of the new Globe Theatre from riverside apartments.

Stunning riverside Show Apartment now open.

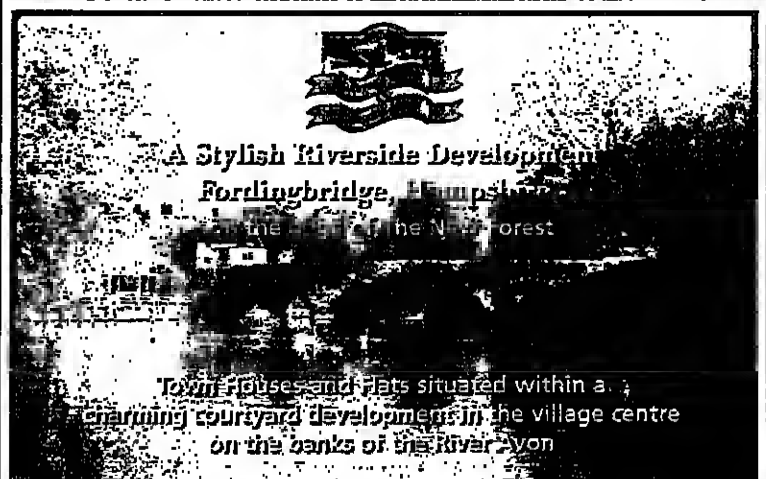
Home Exchange available

Map not to scale

Globe View, Upper Thames St, London EC4.
1 & 2 bedroom apartments from £165,000 - £495,000
Marketing Suite open every day 10am-6pm
Tel: 0171 489-8013 (24hrs)

All offers within this advertisement are available on selected properties only. Subject to status, contract, availability and normal Barratt Home Exchange conditions.

BARRATT
Britain's Premier House Builder
http://www.ukpg.co.uk/barratt



A Stylish Riverside Development
Fordingbridge, Hampshire
on the edge of the New Forest

Town Houses and Flats situated within a charming courtyard development in the village centre on the banks of the River Avon

SOLE AGENT
5-7 Salisbury Street,
Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 1AD
Telephone (01425) 652121
Facsimile (01425) 656690

RETIREMENT HOMES

Retire in comfort and style

Spacious retirement houses & flats, set in beautifully landscaped gardens in 19 counties around England.
From £159,000 to £295,000 in
Cambridgeshire*, Cheshire*, Essex*,
Surrey, Warwickshire* & West Sussex
-Soon in Hampshire & Wiltshire
*Show house open for viewing

English Courtyard

Freephone 0800 220 858 quoting ref NS4
or visit our website www.englishcourtyard.co.uk

IRELAND

QUERRIN CREEK
Private luxury coastal Retreats by a sheltered Limestone pier on the West-Clare Atlantic coast
E-Mail querrin@tinet.ie
Ph. 00353-51-871679
Website: www.querrin.com

PORTUGAL

ALGARVE Before you settle on your dream home in the sun, talk to us about the Algarve, Quinta do Lago, Vale do Lobo, Almancil, Carvoeiro & Lagos areas. Luxury golf and quality properties from £120,000. Prime Property Int. 01628 778841 (24 hrs)

FERRAGUDO Algarve, Villa Castelo a prime location beach front freehold development. Offers 2 bedroom luxury homes. Guaranteed rental income. 01604 859056

FREE TICKETS to World of Property. UK's largest overseas property show. Tel:01323 412001

SPAIN

COSTA DEL SOL Marbella, Mijas, P.Banus etc inc golf & seafront properties, new & resale from £50,000. Overseas offices. Prime Property Int. 01628 778841

FREE TICKETS to World of Property. UK's largest overseas property show. Tel:01323 412001

JAVEA/MORAIRA £45K - £300K New & resale. Broch & Photos. Beaches Int. 01562 885181

MARBELLA - Detached Villa. 3 beds, 2 baths, garage, pvt gdn. Pool. £100,000. 01789 293111

WORLD CLASS HOMES
Costa Del Sol Marbella to Sotogrande
Costa Blanca Villas in Moraira & Javea
Baleares Mallorca and Menorca
Prices from £80,000 - £10m
Freefone 0800 908984
International: +44 181 553 6294
email: worldclasshomes@dialpipex.com

CASA MARBELLA
Est. 1981.
New Developments and Resales to all price ranges from Estepona ● Marbella ● Mijas
The Five Star Promise
* Honesty
* Quality and Value
* We match our clients' needs
* Widest choice
* After Sales Service.
For Further Details
Tel: 0171 289 9877 Fax: 0171 289 9882
www.casamarbella.es

USA

FLORIDA HOMES Orlando and Gulf Coast. Guaranteed rental schemes. FPA 01202 884460

FREE TICKETS to World of Property. UK's largest overseas property show. Tel:01323 412001

INTERIOR Designers Waterfront Home at yacht club Cape Coral Florida. Remodeled 1997, 3 beds, 2 bath, large lanai & pool, dock, dble plot tropical garden. Showcase condition. £120,000. Freehold. Tel: 01502 724301

LONDON RENTALS

BARBICAN EC2. 2 bed 1st flr P/F flat, nr tube £325pw. Stock Page Stock 0171 251 4171

BARBICAN EC2 select 1 bed unfurnished From £260 pw Daniel Watney 0171 253 4414

BATTERSEA V Lux Lge 2 bd FF Sec Pkg Nr BR £250 pw, City Lets 0171 488 1458

BAYSWATER Large 2 bed flat, 1.5 bath, balcony, 2 mins Queensway, fully refurb/furn private block. £425pw. 0171 403 7900

CHELSEA Lower Sloane St 1 & 2 bed flats and Flushborough Rd 2 bed flat with roof terrace Early viewing recommended £300 pw 0171 361 4717

CHISWICK W4, Grove Pk. Luxury 2 bed flat, all new, nr river, avail Oct. £335pw. 0181 742 3223

CLERKENWELL - V Lux Lge Brd New 1 & 2 Bd FF Pkg port Nr Tube Fr £250 pw City Lets 0171 488 1458

DOCKLANDS - V Lux Lge Brd New 2Bd 2BTH FF/UF Pkg Port Nr Tube £350-£525 pw City Lets 0171 488 1458

EATON ROW SW1 Smart hse living rm, 2 dble beds with ensuite baths. £500 pw. 0171 351 1511

FULHAM 2 beds to let in spacious friendly house, gdn, close amenities. £120, £100 pw + bills, prof. refs required. 0171 371 7821

KEW W8, 2 double bed modern flat, 24 hour porter and parking, long let £500pw. Tel: 0181 376 2867

KENSINGTON/Hampstead 2-3 bed superior aparts Tel: 0181 451 3094 Fax: 0181 459 4422

KINGSTON 2 dble bed grnd floor apt near Richmond Pk A3 and BR. New kit/bath, gdns, entry phone £240 pw. 0181 546 6116.

LIVERPOOL ST 5 min Brd New Lux Lge 1 & 2 Bd FF Pkg port Gym Nr Tube £250-£400 pw City Lets 0171 488 1458

N1 1 & 2 bedrooms unfurnished from £230 pw Daniel Watney 0171 253 4414

SE1 Large 1 bed furn, parking avail £300 pw Daniel Watney 0171 253 4414

SOUTHBANK - Lux Lge Brd New 1Bd FF Nr Tube £250 pw City Lets 0171 488 1458

SW1 - V Lux Lge 2Bd 2Bth FF Pkg Port Nr Tube £350-£425 pw City Lets 0171 488 1458

SW3 2 dble bedrms gdn flat, ff kit, new decor, all mod cons, wood floors. £500pw. 0181 780 0851.

W1 - New Lux Lge 1 & 2 Bd FF/UF Pkg port Nr Tube £475-£650 pw City Lets 0171 488 1458

W1 Fitzrovia selection of high spec int des. fully furn 1/2 bed flats. All brand new from £475 pw per week. Tel: 0171 224 0959

W14 Sinclair Road. Immaculate 1 bed Dec fully furnished £200 pw. Tel: 0171 603 2497.

WALTON ST SW3. 1 bed flat, F-furn, recep, f-dining, kit, bath, s/patio. £295pw 0171 585 0324

WATERLOO - 5 mins New Lux Lge 2Bd 2Bth FF Nr Tube £425pw City Lets 0171 488 1458

WC1 Unique mews, sun, light, lovely garden, 2 bed, 3 bath. Garage. £650pw. 0171 607 4969

WIMBLEDON Lux Mais, beaut furn, very quiet secl, lge lawns, 2 beds, £275pw. 0181 788 4513.

SUSSEX

BRIGHTON Few minutes to sea & station. 3/4 bed Victorian hse. £149,950. 0171 352 6799

GEORGIAN West Sussex. Splendid principal section of fine Georgian mansion in urban parkland setting, beautiful private gardens. Price Guide £260,000 - £326,000 Tel 01730-233228

GROOMBRIDGE 4 miles Tunbridge Wells mid 19thC det hse 4 bed 4 recept 2 baths gge cellar GCH lovely views & gdn 0.5 acres. £325-350k. 01892 864706

NEAR Pulborough. An individual recently refurbished detached dwelling converted from a former chapel providing interesting and comfortable split-level accommodation. 2/3 bedrooms, bathroom, cloakroom, sitting room, dining hall, kitchen, utility. Internal garage. Garden overlooking fields. Offers in the region of £216,000. Tel Monkhouse and Partners (01798) 872081

CLUTTONS
Daniel Smith
MID SUSSEX
Near Fletching
A magnificent first floor apartment within famous country house and adjoining well known gardens.
3 reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, 4 bedrooms, dressing room, 3 bathrooms.
2 garages. Use of communal gardens, 2 tennis courts and parkland of about 30 acres.
Price Guide £390,000
HAYWARDS HEATH OFFICE
01444 441166

SURREY

HAMPTON COURT
Delightful top floor studio flat in quiet tree lined road close to river, Palace, shops and station. Off street parking.
Ideal pied-à-terre.
No Chain
£69,950.
Tel: 0181 977 4134

WALES

COUNTY Homesearch Co Service for buyers. Save time & money. Brochure Cardiff 0845 6000104

NORWEGIAN Log Cabin. £35,950. Nr Aberdovey mid Wales, in 14 acres of woodland, by river, excellent condition, Freehold. Tel: 0121 352 1778 for details

WILTSHIRE

FOR SALE BY AUCTION
(Subject to terms and conditions)
211 POTTLE STREET,
HORNINGSHAM,
Nr WARMINSTER WILTS
Det farm cott with garden/paddock, in need of modernisation. 1 Recept, Kit. Bathroom/wc., 2/5 Beds.
Auction: 21st Oct 1998
Further details from
David Bell & Company
Tel: 01985 215579

YORKSHIRE

COUNTY Homesearch Co a prof personal service for purchasers. Brochure 01653 690007

HOME SEARCH

MICHAEL CHANDLER FRICS. Hants, Wilts, Dorset, Berks, Surrey. Tel/Fax 01725 511152

PROPERTY / Land search Bristol S / West. Let us find your next property. 26 years experience. Tel / Fax 01275 855068 7 days a week. (We are not Estate Agents) Contact Tom White.

FEATURE

CHARACTER COTTAGE
Delightful stone built mid terrace cottage (1840 approx)
Part of conservation area in a quiet picturesque village.
M40 J9, 4 miles London by train 62 mins
2 bdrms, cosy interior, lge fireplace, wood/solid fuel stove. Lge gdn, attrac stone out building converted to study.
£105,000 No chain
0402 728448

HOLLAND PARK
Melbury Road W14
Unique Freehold Flat
5 bed, 4 bath, reception, dining room
Off street parking, garage, porter, communal gardens.
£1.35m
For sale by owner
Tel: 171 647 1480

BALEARICS

MALLORCA & Menorca. Quality houses in all areas, £80K-£6M. Freefone/Fax 0800 908984

FRANCE

BUY without commission. Free! Receive regularly, at your home, a selection of real estate corresponding to your demand. Fax (33) 4 67 63 63 19 or write to: Le Partenaire Europeen 34297 Montpellier cedex S/France. pe@mnet.fr

CHARMING 17 Century Chateau needs work 10 ha Park, Gatehouse, stables etc 2M FR. Attractive 6 bed country house, Gite, Barns 50 ha 2M FR Nice village holiday home, gardens 35M FR. Others Tel: 0033 5 49 485473

DORDOGNE, Fully restored, part 15th Century, unique village house. 400,000FF Tel/Fax: 0033 5 53 91 06 84

EXCHANGE F/form PARIS 1 bed lux. Dec (St. Paul metro) for London equivalent. Lexi 0171 330 7048.

FREE TICKETS to World of Property. UK's largest overseas property show. Tel:01323 412001

FRENCH ALPS Ski properties from £80K - £500K. Brochure. Beaches Int. 01562 885181

MOBILE homes for sale in France (with management). New from £4,875. Phone 01492 572714.

PROVENCE 20mins Nimes & Uzes. Stunning enormous recently converted 5 bed, 4 bath village house. Huge double height living room. Large secure courtyard with room for small pool. £180,000. Tel: 00334 66822689

PROVENCE Close Nimes & Uzes. Beautifully converted 3 bed, 3 bath village house with courtyards, terraces & views. £165,000. Tel:00334 66822689

SOUTH (Aude) In the middle of the mysterious land of the Cathars, near Montagne noire & Mediterranean, a superb development on the springs of "Canal du Midi". A few magnificent houses for sale. From £45 to £72,000 - Inf. Tel. 0033 468695515 fax: 0033 468695260 Eng spoken

SW FRANCE Charente / N.Gironde. Also Burgundy. All types of property. Details 01798 874499

DORDOGNE
Hilltop Chateau
Superbly renovated. Near market town, golf.
9 beds, 7 baths etc. Includes wing for guests, letting or staff. Studio, stables. 500sqft out buildings. 40ft pool. 40 acres or less. River frontage with English owners.
Tel: 0033 553 22 9822

COUNTRY RENTALS

CORNISH trad cott, close all village amenities, Truro 8 miles. Prettily furn 3 dble beds, C/H, pkg, avail now — Easter, £450pcm. 01727 840437

E. ANGLIA 2 bed retreat on idyllic private island. Tidal Road, pool good beaches 01621 788451 / Fax: 788244

ESSEX superb views. New self contained 2 bed & 2 bath apt. Private grounds nr Colchester. £600pm. Please respond to box number 2879

HENLEY, Marlow Selection of rural executive & riverside properties. London 40 mins, Heathrow 20 mins Granvilles 01628-481381

NR OXFORD 2 bdrm thatched cottage adjoining Water Mill on River Windrush. Furnished to very high standard. Garden. Min 6 mths. Fishing by arrangement. £800pcm. Tel: 01865 300834.

SURREY Short lets. Properties Croydon, Reigate & Redhill. Weekly incl rate. 01306 880585

VIRGINIA WATER/ Windsor. Luxury new 5 bed, 3 reception room townhouse. Available immediately. £3,450 pcm. 01344 626730 or 01753 868622.

FULHAM

BISHOPS PARK 4/5 bed 3 bath spac hse 50' gdn quiet good pking £425k. 0961 117351.

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

NO time to find your new home. The London homesearch service. 07071 221110.

NOTTING HILL 2 bed 1980's apt, wood floors, balc (Ex council) £120,000. 0171 221 9044

ONSLOW GDNS Sunny 2 bed, 2 bath, 2rd floor with lift, stunning views over garden. 50 yr lease. £341,000. 0831 645413

W14 2 bed elegant raised ground floor Victorian apt, nr Holland Park. £179,950. 0171 221 9044

FARLEY & Co

UNMODERNISED PROPERTIES WITH POTENTIAL

COURTFIELD GARDENS, SW5
A fourth floor flat offering well proportioned accommodation with views over communal gardens. Hall, reception rm, kitchen, 1 bedrms, 2 bathrms (1 ch). Lift, CH. Access to Communal Gardens.
LEASE 999 YEARS PLUS SHARE OF FREEHOLD
PRICE £295,000

SOUTH KENSINGTON, SW7
A bright fourth floor penthouse flat benefiting from two south facing terraces. Lift, CH. Hall, reception rm, dining rm, kitchen, 3 bedrms, 2 bathrms (1 ch).
Use of Communal Gardens.
LEASE 86 YEARS UNEXPIRED
PRICE £495,000

PRINCES GATE MEWS, SW7
A charming mews house with potential for an additional floor subject to planning. Lobby, reception rm, kitchen, 1 bedroom, bathrm, shower rm. CH. Garage.
FREEHOLD PRICE £595,000

CHELSEA, SW10
An opportunity to purchase a roof space thus creating a third floor flat of approx 820 sq ft. Planning permission have been obtained but Building Regulations and Consent have not been applied for.
LEASE 112 YEARS UNEXPIRED
PRICE £150,000

QUEEN'S GATE, SW7
A light and spacious top floor flat of approx 1,700 sq ft in this well run mansion block. Hall, double reception rm, kitchen/breakfast rm, 4 bedrms, 2 bathrms (1 ch). Cloakrm. Lift, Porter. Communal CH with HW.
LEASE 112 YEARS UNEXPIRED
PRICE £575,000

0171 589 1234

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

LARGE flr 2 dble bedrms, 1½ baths, 24' drawing rm, wooden flrs, 148 yrs. £375,000. 0171 351 1511

NOTTING HILL

NOTTING Hill Gate, close to. Penthouse apartment in small modern block. 2 bed, 2 bath loft style reception. Numerous terraces. Underground parking. Communal gardens. £315,000. Leasehold. Westbourne Estates 0171 727 8612

NOTTING Hill Gate, close to. First floor 1 bedroom flat in small modern block. West facing balcony. Underground parking. communal gardens. £175,000. Leasehold. Westbourne Estates 0171 727 8612.

STYLISH Architect-designed top floor mais 2 beds £730k. Share freehold 0171 727 0283

W11 2 bed period apt, private walled garden, wood floors, £280,000. 0171 221 9044

WIMBLEDON

WANTED. Young proff man urgently requires self contained 1 bed flat unfurnd or part furn with gge in Wimbledon Village area. Reasonable rent. Excellent references. Tel: 01737 844331

BRISTOL

COUNTY Homesearch Co. Will find & secure your next property. Brochure 0117 974 1569.

BEDFORDSHIRE

STUNNING large period country house set in mature gardens, Beds/Bucks border, 5 beds, 3 baths, magnificent galleried landing, many original features. Euston 35 mins, easy access M1. £450,000. 01525 237155.

BERKSHIRE

COOKHAM-ON-THAMES Interior designed 2 bed Victorian cottage. 30ft gdn in charming Thameside village. £199,950 D/H. Tel: Agents 01628 621177

COTSWOLDS

COUNTY Homesearch Co house finding specialists in Glos/Here & adj areas 01242 262260

OXON (5mls Chipping Norton) Attractive stone detached 2 bed period village house for refurbishment, walled garden and studio/garage. Auction - 7th October. Taylor & Fletcher Chipping Norton. Tel. 01608 644344

DEVON

COUNTY Homesearch Co specialists in finding the right home in Dev/Cnwll Tel 01872 223349

SOUTH DEVON Lindridge Park. An exclusive development in a private 21 acre parkland location. 18th C listed period cottage with 2/3 recepts, 3/4 beds, 2 baths, shwr/cllar, kitchen, utility, private courtyard, gge & ample parking. £307,500. Tel: 01392 499699

DEVON

DARTMOOR EDGE 30 mins Exeter. Individual detached 3 bedroomed bungalow, oil C/H, part D/G, garage. OIRO £120,000. 01837 52371 / 01235 531053

£9,950 for your own holiday home in South Devon
Enjoy 4 weeks of your choice each year for 12 years.
Indoor Pool, Snooker, Restaurant, etc.
Intrigued?
Ring John Gange ● Stancombe Manor, South Devon
01548 531922

EAST ANGLIA

BEDFORDS
Just published AUTUMN LIST
Over 100 Country and Coastal Suffolk/Norfolk Properties.
£60k - £1.5m
Telephone for your copy
01328 730500

HAMPSHIRE

LYMINGTON Grnd flat Warden Assisted. Desirable area. Service charge £100 Rent £890 PCM. Phone 01590 612347(eves)

Lane Fox
Stanford Station (Waterloo) 3 miles
A DETACHED MODERNISED FAMILY HOUSE
In a wonderful waterside setting
2 Receptions,
5 Bedrooms.
Consent to enlarge.
Double Garage.
Attractive Garden.
ABOUT 0.72 ACRE
Guide Price: £375,000
Winchester Office
01962 869999

ESSEX

WESTCLIFF Det 1920's Home. Easy, fast access to London. 2 dbl beds, lge secluded gdn, quiet, exclusive tree lined road. Perfect neighbourhood D/glaz & GCH. Nr beach. £185,000. Mr Poole on 01702 471510 before 9pm

HEREFORDSHIRE

KINGTON approx 7 miles. An idyllic detached & refurbished cottage set amidst superb countryside. Electric night storage heating. Sitting room with exposed timbers, Inglenook & bread oven. Fitted kitchen with fridge, oven & hob, bathroom, 2 bedrooms. Really outstanding garden. £69,950. 0121 7069427

HERTFORDSHIRE

Home Counties Property for Prestige and Character homes in Bucks & Herts 01442 865000

UNIQUE Lux 6mly home. Village location, ½ acre grnds. Views rolling countryside. Carriage drv. Nr StAlbans, 20 mins Kings X. M1 5 mls, A1 2 mls, M25 7 mls. OIRO £475,000. Tel: 01582 832240

LEICESTERSHIRE

Smith PARTNERS

RUTLAND - BURLEY
The West wing of one of England's finest country houses Listed Grade I (circa 1694) commanding panoramic south views over mature parkland towards Rutland Water comprising one of six distinctive houses within the original mansion house offering a classical and comprehensive range of elegant interior rooms conceived by Kit Martin.
PRICE ON APPLICATION
100 FRIAR LANE
NOTTINGHAM
0115 950 5181

KENT

BICKLEY nr Bromley Southborough Lane. Imposing Edwardian det hse, 7 beds, 3 recepts, cellar, gge. Kitchen with Aga & int appl. Sympathetically refurb'd retaining many orig features. £575,000. 0181 467 6097.

COUNTY Homesearch Co will find & secure your ideal home. Tel 01732 763060

KENT

HOLLINGBOURNE Superb new conversion of Listed Barn of great character, 4 beds, 2 baths, galleried lounge, d.r., study, oak kit, utility, w.c., dble gge, 2 acres gdn & paddock. £345,000. Owlgwest Ltd - 01622 517999 (Office) 01622 882102 (eves & wknds)

OXFORDSHIRE

ABINGDON Luxury marina flat. 2 beds, 3 receptions, garage. Superb views, private moorings. £147,000. Tel: 01235 554002.

M40 only 5 mls. Charming 3-bed det. hse in hamlet nr. Henley. New decs, carpets, Rayburn, C/H, lge estab gdn Office move forces sale OIRO £255k 01491 641413.

SCOTLAND

ARDNAMURCHAN PENINSULA Argyll. Charming fully mod home with en-suite/letting accomm in rural village with magnificent sea & island views. O/o £190K. www.ardnamurchan.com/Overview.html. Brochure: Alexander Dawson (01631) 562901

SOMERSET

DORSET £80,000 each. 2 new character cottages in small village. 3 beds. 01935 423526

LOVELY Victorian 3 bedroom detached cottage set in the heart of the Somerset Levels. Ideal 2nd home/holiday let. £74,950. 0410 966246 Tel/Fax 01326 319802.

OXFORDSHIRE

Bliss Mill,
Chipping Norton. Oxon.
Large luxury 3 bedroom apartment. Double reception room, study, kitchen, master suite, family bathroom, hall. Exceptional cupboard & wardrobe storage. Position, also rarely available. Full use of comprehensive leisure facilities with over 6 acres of gardens. Immediate occupation furnished and fully equipped.
O.I.R.O £260,000
Call: 01451 870394

SOMERSET

NR BATH, detached period house, 2/3 beds, gas ch, dbl gge, long garden, fast restored. £90,000. 01761 414999.

SOUTH SOMERSET £395,000. One of the principal houses in this small town. 9 beds, 5 baths, 5 recepts. 01935 423526

SOUTH SOMERSET £105,000. Semi-detached Hamstone Cottage to quiet position. 2 beds, 2 recept, garden. 01935 423526

SUFFOLK

SUFFOLK (10 MILES TO IPSWICH) - substantial property comprising 16th Century Hall with range of traditional farm outbuildings including large Medieval Barn, Dovecote and Bakehouse and 26 acres of land. The residence and main outbuildings are all Grade II* listed and require renovation/improvement. Attractive situation, nearly 1 mile from public highway. Guide price £450,000. For details contact Lacy Scott and Knight 01449 612384.

UNUSUAL 2 bedroom period cottage with small garden & barn in village Nr. Newmarket £89,950. Tel: 01638 668284

SURREY

COBHAM Surrey. A substantial new detached 6 bedroom home constructed by Michael Shanly Homes Ltd set in a private tree lined avenue. 4 receptions, 5 bathrooms, luxury Poggenpohl kitchen/ breakfast room. ½ acre plot. Completion mid October. To view today telephone Hamptons Walton Estate Agents 01932 589988. £925,000 Freehold.

SUSSEX

ANCIENT RYE. £174,500. Modernised listed Grade II period cottage in Conservation Area. 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Sitting room 20' x 13'9, Dining room, Hall, Smallbone Kitchen, patio garden, gas heating, leaded lights. Black Horse Agencies (01797 223155) Rye.

English Courtyard have a limited number of luxury retirement houses & flats available at:-
Upton-Upon-Severn, Worcs - Ilminster, Somerset
South Petherton, Somerset - Lenham, Kent
Prices from £92,500 to £135,000
Freephone 0808 220858 quoting ref RS4
8 Holland Street Kensington W8 4LT English Courtyard 8 Holland Street Kensington W8 4LT

RETIREMENT HOMES

OVERSEAS PROPERTY

Discover Your Dream Home Overseas at the
WORLD OF PROPERTY EXHIBITION
The UK's largest display of overseas property
Over 130 different agents and developers
Holiday, retirement and business property
Independent expert legal & financial advisors
FRIDAY 18th - SUNDAY 20th SEPTEMBER
(10.30am - 5.30pm Friday & Saturday, 10.30am - 5.00pm Sunday)
SANDOWN EXHIBITION CENTRE
SANDOWN PARK RACECOURSE
PORTSMOUTH ROAD,
ESHER, SURREY
(M25 Junction 10 - Free Parking
▲SPAIN
▲GREECE ▲PORTUGAL
▲FRANCE ● FLORIDA ● CYPRUS
● ANDORRA ▲ IRELAND
● THE CANARY & BALEARIC ISLANDS
● THE CARIBBEAN ▲ USA
▲ GIBRALTAR ● ITALY
● LEGAL ADVICE ● FINANCE
● FLIGHTS ● BOOKS
EUROPE'S LARGEST OVERSEAS PROPERTY SHOW
MORE CHOICE THAN ANY EVENT!
FOR FREE INFORMATION PACK
RING 01323 412001 (24 HRS)
FREE ADMISSION FOR 2 WITH THIS ADVERT (Normally £2.50) CHILDREN FREE

GREECE

CRETE The best selection of stone houses, apts & land. Real Crete Properties 01865 358001

ITALY

ROME Trastevere. Beautiful artists period apt., 2 beds, lge living room. Some antique furniture included. £150,000. Tel: 00331 45327929

PORTUGAL

VILLAS & GOLF
Freehold Villas from £200,000
Apartments from £75,000
Tel: 0800 963 147

Tony Gray and fiancée Paula Finn outside their self-build home which took them less than a year to complete — with help from family and friends; and their bedroom with the four-poster bed which Tony made

Built with their own hands

More people are choosing to build their own homes, and saving up to a third of the cost — but it can be a long and frustrating process, says **Diana Wildman**

With the aspirations of first-time buyers so high these days, many are forgoing the easy route on to the housing ladder and opting for self-build — and savings of at least a third.

Last year, self-builders — many of them first-time homeowners — designed and constructed more than 20,000 homes. They were prepared to give up their free time for at least a year (and often longer), to build a house which would be out of their financial league were they to buy the same home already built.

Some banks and building societies offer specially adapted mortgages providing the money as work proceeds, but they prefer that at least 50 per cent of the plot price has been saved. There are specialised land-finding agencies such as Landbank Services which charges £30 for a month's list of plots available in any three counties and has about 3,000 on its database. The Scottish Self-Build Advisory Service has about 1,000 plots for sale. Each month the specialist magazine *Build It* lists some 1,000 plots from all over Britain.

Before exchanging contracts it is essential that prospective purchasers obtain a surveyor's report and legal advice regarding planning consent. And they need to be prepared for the project to take a lot longer and cost more than originally bargained for.

Donald Price, 28, and his wife Sally, 24, live and work in the Gloucestershire village of Churcham in a two-bedroom dormer-style bungalow they built themselves. They wanted to stay in the village with their family and friends and self-build was the only viable option. "There are no small flats in Churcham," says Mrs Price, "and we didn't want a mortgage round our necks for years, and renting defeats the object. We bought the half-acre plot at auction five years ago for £58,500 when we got engaged and moved in last August — on our wedding day.

"There was an old asbestos riddled pre-fab on the site which we had to dismantle ourselves, with lots of help from Donald's father who supplied the skips, and we salvaged everything possible from it including all the wood and hardcore which is now part of our new home. We were on a tight budget.

"Although we wanted to lay the foundations it proved impractical, but my surveyor uncle marked and pegged out the house as a present. We used local builders to lay the foundations and do the bricklaying and roofing, but once the basic shell was up we did everything else ourselves. We installed the electrics and fitted the kitchen and bathroom.

> ‘The house cost us £69,000 to build and was recently valued at £170,000’

"I must admit, at one point I thought we would never finish. But suddenly, last summer, it dawned on us that we had a home. All our spare time had been spent on it and we paid for it as we went along.

"Our families were fantastic, but Donald and his father did all the hard graft. My deal was to supply all the furniture and fittings. I accumulated a lot over the five years and we received lots of useful wedding presents." The total cost of the plot and all buildings and fixtures came to around £90,000. Its current valuation is about £160,000.

However, self-build does not have to take five years. Tony Gray, 29, and his fiancée Paula Finn, 27, moved into their three-bedroom cottage with double garage in less than a year from start to finish. Mr Gray is a carpenter — an advantage — and he made all the doors, kitchen and bathroom units, wardrobes, beams, a four-poster bed and a grandfather clock. He reckons that saved them well over £10,000.

"Paula was living with her family and I was in a small flat in North London when we first seriously considered self-build after visiting the Self-Build Homes Show at Alexandra Palace in 1994," says Mr Gray. "We spent the next two years saving to buy a plot and paid £36,000 for a spacious one in Royston, Hertfordshire, in August 1996. We then got a mortgage from the TSB for a further £36,000 which was released in two stages.

"In no way could we have dreamt of owning such a lovely house without building it ourselves and I am amazed how smoothly it went, as I had allowed two years to complete. We have a close friend who spent all his free time helping us and I, in turn, am about to help him as he has decided to build his own home now.

"We did almost everything ourselves as we were on a very tight budget. There was more stress in taking the responsibility for keeping the whole scheme running and the two months when the brickwork and the roof were going on I was very stressed. Paula and I had discussed the possibility of falling out but we didn't.

"Luckily the weather didn't hold us up. It seems unreal that we created our first home together and we moved in last September. The total cost came to £69,000 and it was recently valued at about £170,000."

● *Scottish Self-Build Advisory Service (01968 676988); Build It magazine: (0171-865 9042); the ninth National Self-Build Homes Show is at Alexandra Palace from September 17-20 between 10am and 6pm.*

Diary of a househunter

MONDAY
We are getting desperate about the flat. Despite daily harassment of agents and lawyers, we still have no date for completion.

TUESDAY
I speak to a weeping friend in Islington, North London, who is selling her one-bedroom flat. The flat she was going to buy in Hackney has been valued at £20,000 less than her offer. She is selling her place anyway for £133,000. She bought it two years ago for £96,000.

WEDNESDAY
We are ready to exchange. We have the £5,000 deposit with the solicitor, the bank is poised to hand over the remaining £97,000 and we sign the final papers. Still no word from the old lady who is selling to us.

THURSDAY
It is getting scary. We discover the old lady is dithering because the place she is buying in Surbiton has subsidence. Meanwhile, we are homeless and commute from Portsmouth to London.

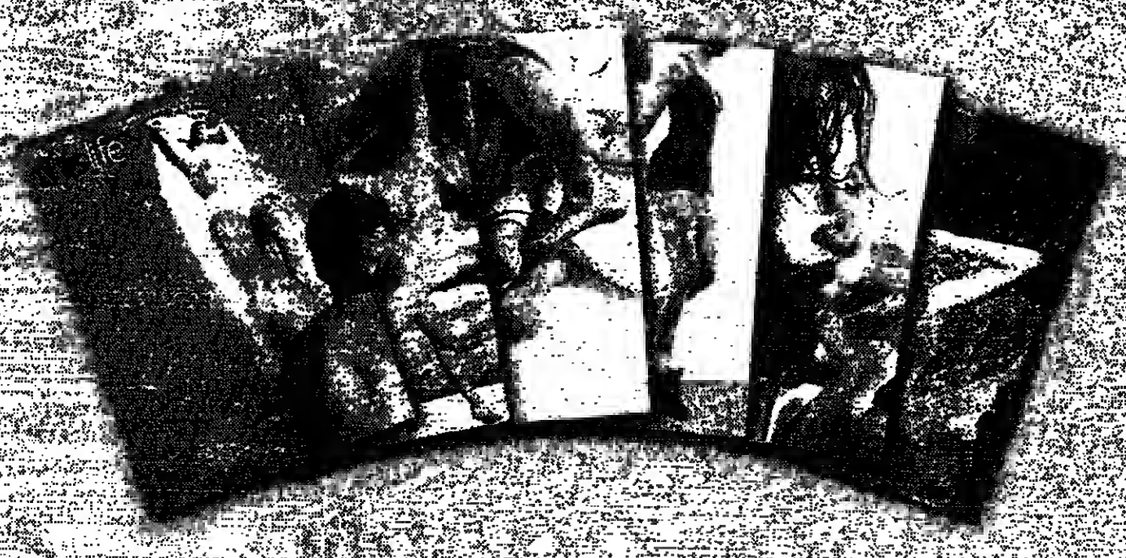
FRIDAY
We cannot bear another weekend of not knowing. We bypass the middlemen and telephone the old lady. "I may or may not buy the flat in Surbiton," she says. "But I have decided to sell to you." Thank heavens for that, dear.

EMMA MAHONY

● *Next week: success!*

THE TIMES

BECAUSE YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE.



Starting in the The Times, next Saturday, see the first of six, free, weekly guides to a complete makeover for mind and body. For a whole new you, get hold of a copy.

http://www.the-times.co.uk

CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الأصل

Rachel Kelly looks at the New Renters: young, urban professionals who are upsetting the locals with their rural retreats

Weekends away with no strings

A new breed is moving into the nation's cottages and country houses. They are not to the manor born, nor do they wish to open the village fête or hold the local WI meetings. Instead, they are an army of urban, professional, thirty-something tenants now renting weekend houses on rural estates or even the stately home itself.

These new landed gentry wish to deadhead the roses, but not to resurface the drive; to enjoy the views, but not to mend the roof or wade through the accounts. But while they enjoy all the advantages of country life without the responsibilities of ownership, some locals are enraged by these New Renters, the worst outrage reserved for those who rent holiday cottages.

Neil Sinden, from the Council for the Protection of Rural England says: "In certain parts of the country, and often the most attractive and heavily visited parts, the scale of the use of second homes, whether through renting or ownership, can cause problems for the maintenance of essential local services. Shops, post offices and public transport can all suffer."

Times reader Jean Gollop says locals are dismayed by yet another property on the south Devon coast, for example, being used for holiday lets. The house is semi-occupied by non residents who make scant use of local shops and schools. She quotes a local struggling publican.

"They come in a few times a year, show me off to their friends, call me by my Christian name to show how well they are integrated and even expect me to know their preferred tipple." Drinkers take note.

Another reader writes from Northwich, Cheshire, to lament the "distress caused to the permanent residents by the people who rent holiday homes".

"I lived next door to a holiday cottage in Sidmouth, Devon. Noisy families were commonplace, 12 people squashed into tiny two-bedroom accommodation. It was useless to complain to the owners as they were raking in the money."

The past decade has seen a quiet revolution in the country rental market, according to new research from Strutt & Parker which examines the fate of five large rural estates and maps the emergence of these New Renters. In 1989, only five per cent of the properties let on the estates were collecting market rents. Now, the proportion has grown to 39 per cent.

This is largely thanks to the 1988 Housing Act, says Ralph Crathorne from the agents. "The old acts such as the 1977 Rent Act exposed a landlord to the risk of losing vacant possession of a property for a number of generations, and imposed restrictions on the rent that could be charged. It was often not worth renting out the property. They received a fraction of the open market value of their property."

Alison Dean in her country house: "We liked the idea of avoiding the responsibility of ownership"

> 'If we tire of it, then we simply give a month's notice and drive away'

But the 1988 Housing Act created assured shorthold tenancies, which were simpler for tenants and landlords to use, and which guaranteed the landlord vacant possession at the end of the term.

"In the past, when a cottage became vacant at the end of a tenancy, the threat of losing security of tenure and the poor return on investment meant that the only realistic solutions were to sell, leave the building vacant, or in extreme but by no means unusual circumstances, demolish it," says Mr Crathorne.

Now landlords are letting rather than selling. Between 1986 and 1992, 82 per cent of the 34 property sales on the five estates took place. After 1992, there was only an average of one property sold each year.

Alison Dean and her husband Peter are classic New Renters. They escape to a three-bedroom cottage in Oxfordshire at the end of the working week: Alison works for an advertising agency and her husband is a fund manager in the City.

"Earlier this year we realised we had done almost all the work we intended to do on our house in Fulham, and the thought of hot London weekends did not fill us with joy.

"So we decided to look for somewhere outside London and the first, and easiest, decision was whether to buy or rent. We decided against buying for several reasons: we did not want to make that kind of financial commitment; and we suspected prices were near their peak and did not want to buy at the top of the market. Finally, we liked the idea of avoiding the responsibility of ownership," she says.

"We had no preconceptions about where we wanted to rent, but have several friends in Oxfordshire. One talked to an agent on our behalf and it turned out that a small three-bedroom cottage in a nearby village was coming free."

Top destinations for New Renters are the Cotswolds, parts of Devon, the area north and east of Cirencester, and anywhere with good access to the M4, the M40 and the A40 or top sporting events such as Badminton, Cheltenham races or Cirencester polo, says Amy Beor-Roberts of Knight Frank's Cirencester office. In Hampshire, people are attracted to the Solent and the New Forest.

But the road to rural bliss does have drawbacks. Most properties outside London are rented unfurnished, so curtains and carpets may not be included.

There is an extra set of bills, too. The Deans had to pay one month's rent in advance as a deposit, and pay for water rates, council tax (which is halved on a second property), oil for central heating and hot water, and electricity.

"We drove up one Saturday — it takes one-and-a-half hours door to door — to have a look and fell in love with the cottage and its location," says Mrs Dean.

The Deans took on the cottage for an initial six months on an Assured Shorthold Tenancy. They have now decided to extend the lease. They pay £500 a month in rent.

"To offset the financial commitment we have an agreement with the landlord that if the lease is taken away within three years, a proportion of the cost will be repaid; however, if we do not continue the tenancy we forfeit the money."

The Deans' three-bedroom cottage in Taston, Oxfordshire

Leases can vary in terms of the responsibility of tenants. The Deans must take care of the garden. "This is no small undertaking but we have found a local gardener to help regain a semblance of order."

The greatest blessing, say the couple, is that they are not responsible should the house need fixing.

"One Sunday we had a badly leaking pipe, which obviously needed attention. So we simply drained the system, locked the door and returned to London. My first task on Monday was to hand over the problem." Renting from an estate also has its virtues. "There is a resident carpenter for example, and a timber mill where we plan to buy logs. The agent is well known and is a useful source of information.

"Maybe one day we'll tire of it, but at that point we'll simply give a month's notice, wave goodbye to the cows and drive away."

Property agents have spotted the trend and have set up new country rental offices. Lane Fox has them in Basingstoke and Princes Risborough. It says that a three-bedroom cottage in the Buckinghamshire areas of Brill, Thame and Aylesbury would cost from £650 to £900 a month in rent.

Sarah Cull, from lettings at the Lane Fox Basingstoke office, says a three-bedroom cottage in the area would cost about £900 a month; £600 a month would get you a two-bedroom property. Houses with five bedrooms and a big garden, would start at £2,000 a month.

Ms Cull suggests choosing a property managed by an agent. "Tenants, especially weekenders, prefer this despite a 15 per cent charge. It is easier and less emotionally involving to make requests or comments to a third party than the owner."

SMART MOVES

GLENCASSLEY, the Scottish estate of the founder of the Royal Shakespeare Company, CHARLES FLOWERS, is for sale. Mr Flowers purchased the estate in 1875 and is the great-uncle of the current occupant, Mrs Evadne Lloyd. The sale is being handled by Knight Frank and local agents Bell Ingram.

CHRIS EVANS, owner and disc jockey of Virgin Radio, was spotted looking at a penthouse in Saffron Wharf at St Saviour's Dock, east London. Mr Evans may be looking for a way to spend his £500,000 deal he recently made with the BBC for two prime-time series.

THE former studio of JOHN CONSTABLE in the village of East Bergholt, Suffolk is for sale at £175,000. Now an office, the building is Grade-II listed and a mile from Flatford Mill, at the heart of Constable country. The agent is Fenn Wright's Ipswich office.

FRANK WILLIAMS, boss of the Formula One racing company is selling his house, Stargroves, in Newbury, Berkshire. The house was once owned by MICK JAGGER.

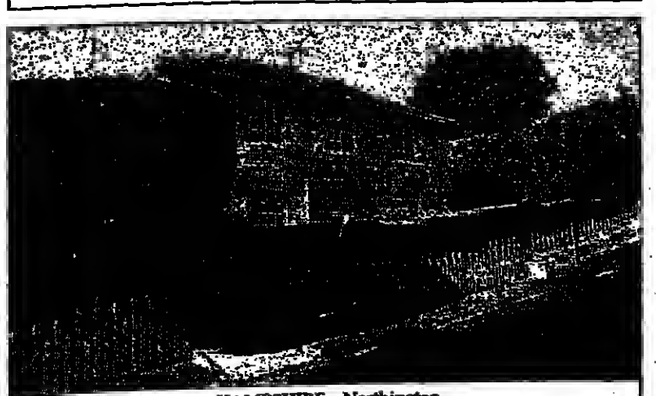
CHESTERTONS is selling a flat in Belvedere Court, Hampstead, north London, which was the birthplace of American talk-show host JERRY SPRINGER. Another resident was the *EastEnders* and *Carry On* star BARBARA WINDSOR.

Just looking: Evans

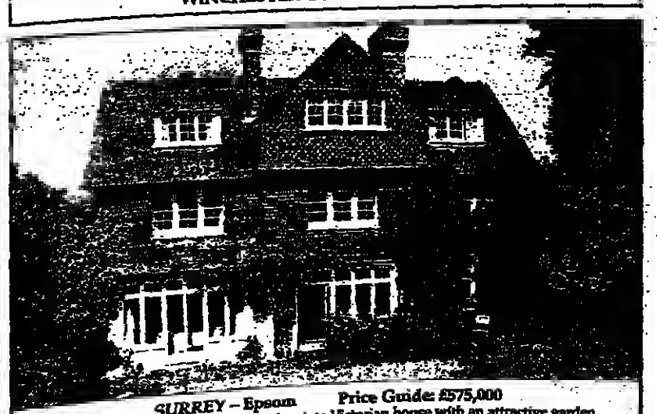
JOHN D WOOD & CO.

LONDON AND COUNTRY ESTATE AGENTS — ESTABLISHED 1872

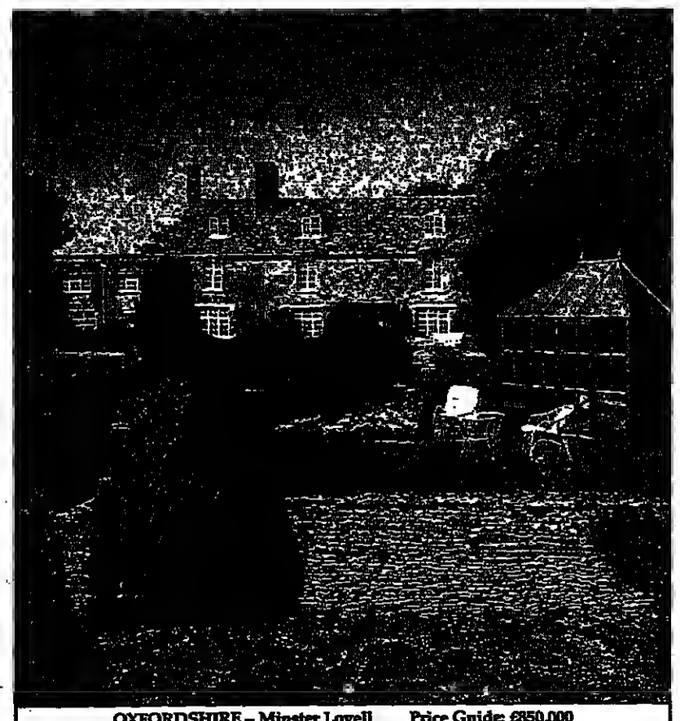
GLOUCESTERSHIRE – Willington — Price Guide £450,000
In a designated area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a charming Cotswold house with a separate two bedroom cottage, in a popular village. Planning permission exists to extend the main house. 5 beds, bathroom, shower rm, 2 receptions, kitchen with Aga, utility/clkrm and garden.
CIRENCESTER OFFICE: 01285 642244



HAMPSHIRE – Northington
In the Candover Valley and with good communications either by road or rail to London, an enchanting, small Georgian house beautifully presented with a self-contained annexe and private gardens. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room, 2 receptions, cellar, heated swimming pool.
WINCHESTER OFFICE: 01962 863131

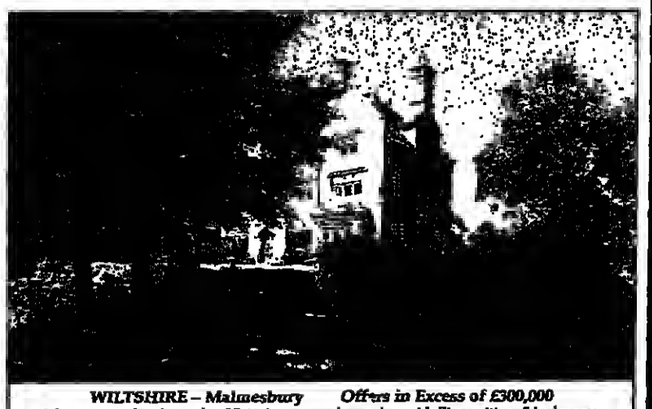


SURREY – Epsom — Price Guide: £575,000
In a conservation area, an impressive, late Victorian house with an attractive garden. 5 bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, dressing room, playroom/bedroom 6, 3 reception rooms, hall, cloakroom, kitchen, utility room, cellars, detached garage, pond and about 1/3 of an acre.
JOHN D WOOD & CO 0171 493 4106 PATRICK GARDNER & CO 01372 271880



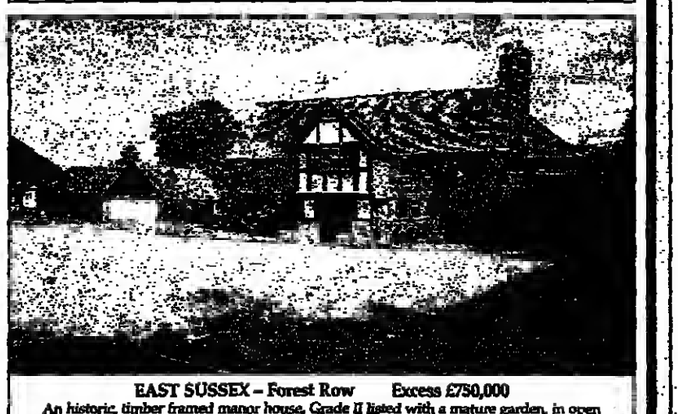
OXFORDSHIRE – Minster Lovell — Price Guide: £850,000
An unspoilt residential estate, near Minster Lovell, on the edge of the Cotswolds. 5 bedroom farmhouse with staff flat, gardens and tennis court. Range of traditional barns incorporating a pair of holiday cottages (with planning for 3 more), paddocks and woodland. About 24.26 acres.
OXFORD OFFICE: 01865 311522

THE LANTERNS, BRIDGE LANE SW11. — Freehold
A spectacular, spacious apartment on three floors within an exclusive development of an old school house close to Battersea Park. 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, shower, study/bedroom 5, reception room, galleried dining area, separate reception area, kitchen, cloakroom, 2 lofts and parking.
BATTERSEA OFFICE: 0171 228 0174



WILTSHIRE – Malmesbury — Offers in Excess of £300,000
A large part of an imposing Victorian manor house in an idyllic position. 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, reception hall/dining room, reception room, kitchen, utility room, cloakroom, garage and parking. Gardens and grounds extend to approximately 0.44 ha (1.09 acres)
CIRENCESTER OFFICE: 01285 642244

HAMPSHIRE – Old Bursledon — Price Guide: £445,000
In a picturesque village, a superb contemporary house with views down the River Hamble and across the Solent to the Isle of Wight. 6 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen with sitting/dining areas, 2 cloakrooms and a garden of about 0.3 acres.
WINCHESTER OFFICE: 01962 863131

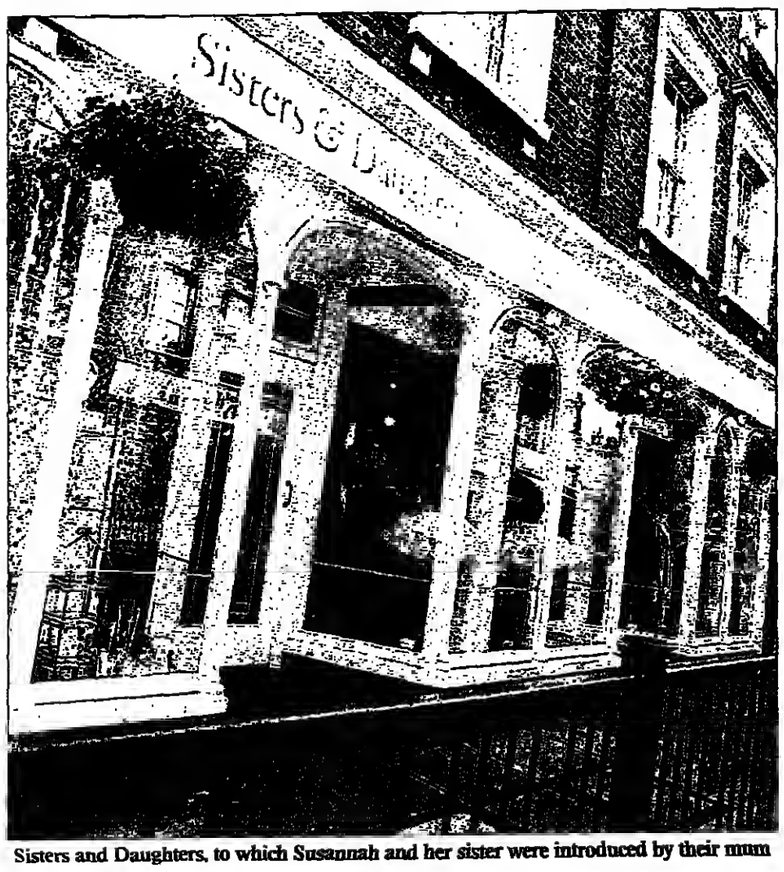


EAST SUSSEX – Forest Row — Excess £750,000
An historic, timber framed manor house, Grade II listed with a mature garden, in open countryside and within walking distance of the village. 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 receptions, playroom with planning consent, heated pool, garages, outbuildings, grounds of about 2 acres.
HEAD OFFICE: 0171 493 4106 & EAST GRINSTEAD OFFICE: 01342 326326

HEAD OFFICE:
26 CURZON STREET, LONDON W1Y 8LD. 0171-493 4106
FAX: 0171-629 6071 http://www.johndwood.co.uk

BATTERSEA, BELGRAVIA, CHELSEA, CIRENCESTER, EAST GRINSTEAD, FARNHAM, FULHAM, HAMPSTEAD, KENSINGTON, LYMINGTON, MAYFAIR, NEWBURY, OXFORD, ST. JOHN'S WOOD, WANDSWORTH, WIMBLEDON, WINCHESTER, HONG KONG.

LETTINGS AND MANAGEMENT:
To let your house or flat in London & Surrey: 0171-232 0100
South of the M4 01730 829899 • North of the M4 01865 311522



Sisters and Daughters, to which Susannah and her sister were introduced by their mum

The actress with great presents

When she's not acting, Susannah Harker indulges a passion for buying gifts, says **Stephen Geraint**

my favourite shop

Susannah Harker is not an easy actress to pigeonhole. As Mattie Storin, an ambitious young journalist, she was thrown off the roof of the House of Commons by Francis Urquhart in *House of Cards*. As the preternaturally good Jane Bennet, she drove off in a coach with her new husband Mr Bingley in the BBC's reworked finale to *Pride and Prejudice*. Now, she is about to live unhappily ever after as Yelena in a new production of *Uncle Vanya* at the Gate Theatre, Dublin, but only after playing a vampire-thwarting haematologist in Channel 4's modern-day gothic drama, *Ultraviolet*. "Make sense of that" is the challenge thrown down by her ever-expanding curriculum vitae.

Ms Harker couldn't be happier with such a variety of roles. "I have been lucky because I don't think people identify me strongly with a particular part. Perhaps it was the strong contrast between *House of Cards* and *Pride and Prejudice*. I don't know . . . somehow I've managed to avoid it."

Her off-stage life is more predictable, revolving around her husband and fellow actor, Iain Glen, their three-year-old son, Finlay, and her two serious passions in life — clothes and presents. The latter two she indulges at Sisters and Daughters, the shop she encountered when she was 14 and her mother, the actress Polly Adams, moved to the area. "My mother introduced my sister and I to the shop, which, given the name, now seems very apt."

Rather like Ms Harker's career, the Blackheath shop defies categorisation. At the back are the sort of clothes that Carola Reason, the owner, with 20 years of experience to back her buying judgment, knows her customers will like. At the front, old Welsh dressers and farmhouse tables are laden with everything that the person with a serious gift-giving habit could desire. Candles, stationery, pottery, jewellery, soft toys, book ends, wine-racks and a range of essential oils. "Basically, we sell anything I like," explains Mrs Reason, whose guiding principle is that everybody should enjoy their visit. "I hope they enjoy themselves and have fun and that's why they keep coming back."

Ms Harker is a serious regular. "I switch straight into shopping mode when I come here," she says. Her previous visit was a couple of days earlier to find a birthday present for her mother, her next cruelly postponed by her imminent departure for rehearsals in Dublin. "I have a passion for clothes and love what's here — they fit in with my style and who I am. They're relaxed, stylish and unpretentious — just what I'm drawn to."

"It's very difficult to sell beautiful, expensive clothes in the suburbs," explains Mrs Reason, "so the kind of clothes I sell are things for people to wear all the time. They are smart and, three years on, they will still be smart. They must also survive having Ribena tipped on them."

There are much worse things than Ribena flying around in *Ultraviolet*, which has been made by the same company that produced *This Life* for BBC2. "I play a haematologist, who's a specialist in the particular evil we are dealing with here," explains says Ms Harker, giving nothing away. "There's a lot of science but a lot of emotion as well." There's also the strange coincidence that Ms Harker (it's a stage name, but taken from her grandmother) is a direct descendent of Joseph Harker, friend of Bram Stoker and the inspiration for Jonathan Harker, the first vampire hunter.

Ms Harker spends much of the series wearing a white lab coat, but other actors' parts have occasionally brought Mrs Reason's clothes to a wider public. "You wore one of our cardigans in that play at Greenwich," recalls the proud proprietor. "I wore several of them," replies Ms Harker, pointing out that she had to age from 16 to 40 in Wendy Wasserstein's *The Heidi Chronicles*.

Greenwich was actually where the three-shop chain built up by Mrs Reason and her business partner started almost 20 years ago. But last year they parted amicably, her partner taking the Greenwich and Tower Bridge shops and the original name, Stitches and Daughters, and Mrs Reason changing the name of the Blackheath shop, reflecting the shop's largely female customer base but not, she hopes, excluding the odd liberated Blackheath male.

In theatrical households, a first night traditionally means more present buying, which is fine by Ms Harker. "I have a passion for gift-giving. I'm sure Freud would have a lot to say about it. It's supposed to be an act of aggression but I find that hard to believe."

And there's never a shortage of choice. "We always have far too many things. But if you're the kind of shop with the same customers that come in again and again, it's very difficult to change anything. On the other hand, without new things a shop dies."

● *Sisters and Daughters, 5-7 Tranquil Vale, Blackheath Village, London SE3 0BU (0181-852 8507)*

● Ultraviolet, *Channel 4, begins on Tuesday.* Uncle Vanya, *The Gate Theatre, Dublin, begins on Oct 6 (Box office: 00 353 1 874 4045)*

Actress Susannah Harker, right, has a passion for gift-giving and has become a regular at Sisters and Daughters, owned by Carola Reason, left

SHOP WATCH

■ Debenhams' designer collections continue with the launch of interior designer Kelly Hoppen's home range. Creamy linen napkins, lacquered Eastern storage boxes and embossed square candles give just a taste of a cool East meets West style. Call 0171-408 4444 for branches.

■ Burberry's sharp new image gives a fresh take on its classic 1924 house check. Check out the new wool coat in cool blue. Burberry, 167 Regent Street, London W1 (0171-734 4060).

■ Benefit Cosmetics simply beg m be tried out. The It Stick (£17) to blank out facial lines, and Ei Bright (£13), to pep up tired eyes. Find lots more treats in its catalogue.

Burberry's new check

Call 0171-629 1234 for mail order.

■ Eden Park, France's ultra chic brand of luxury men's sportswear, opens a British flagship store next week at 16 Conduit Street, London W1 (0171-408 0037).

■ Thomas Goode, the crème de la crème of china shops, has joined forces with Wedding List Services. Versace china, Mulberry homewares, Christian Lacroix linens — they're all yours if you have rich friends. Call 0171-493 4996 for details.

☐ UPDATE: L'Occitane opens a new store in Chelsea this month at 67 King's Road, London SW3 (0171-823 4555) . . . Order tickets now (£5) for the Designer's Sale during London Fashion Week from September 30. Discounts on excess stock and end of season lines from the likes of Amanda Wakeley and Philip Treacy. Ticket hotline 0171-413 1421.

JUDITH WILSON

Photographs by Des Jenson

The grate and the good

CHEESE GRATERS

Although you can now buy cheese already grated from the supermarket, it's not as good as when you do it yourself. Which grater to buy depends on personal preference and when asked, many people can describe instantly the style of grater they prefer.

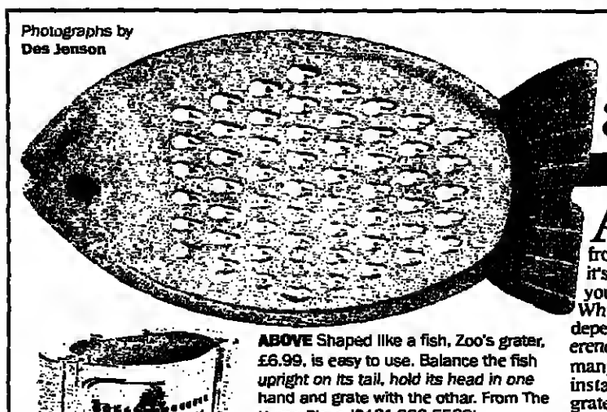
Juliet Harbutt, from the British Cheese Board, prefers functionality over style: "I like bog-standard square-based graters," she says. Lucy Parsons, tabletop buyer for Habitat, will only grate her parmesan with a single-sided curvy hand-held grater and Mara Berni, owner of the top-notch San Lorenzo Italian restaurant in London favours a hand-held grater with a wooden backing.

Prices vary enormously. A no-frills, four-way grater from Safeway is a snip at £4.99 but for something smarter, such as the cherry-wood grater from Italian company Twergi, expect to pay between £40 and £50.

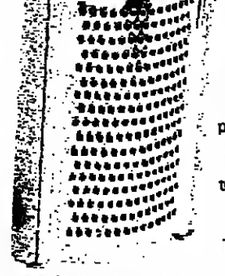
Look for stainless-steel blades because the edges will stay sharp: a grater that is dishwasher proof is handy because they can be fiddly to clean, and a decent grip will prevent accidents.

A good tip for storing parmesan cheese is to wrap it in a wet towel and place it in the bottom of the fridge, where it is not too cold.

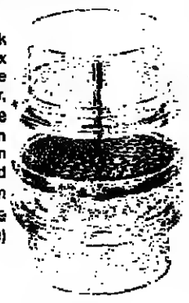
MARY ANN PERCY



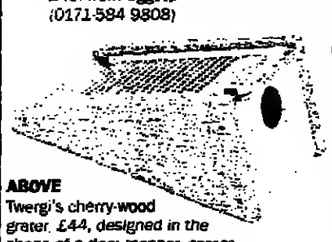
ABOVE Shaped like a fish, Zoo's grater, £6.99, is easy to use. Balance the fish upright on its tail, hold its head in one hand and grate with the other. From The Home Place (0181-200 5598)



ABOVE Comfortable to hold and easy to clean, the Twergi pear-wood grater, £40, from Oggetti (0171-584 9808)

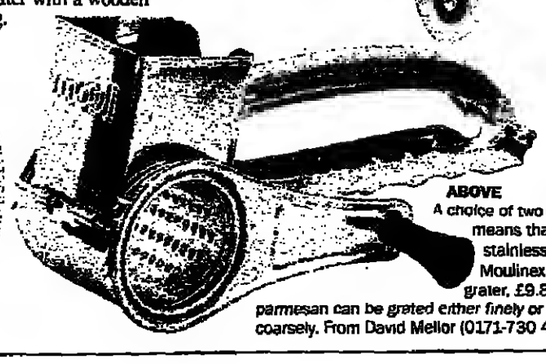


RIGHT To work the Perspex Spaghetti Tree parmesan grater, £17, first wedge your cheese on to the spike then attach the lid and twist. From The Home Place (as above)



ABOVE Twergi's cherry-wood grater, £44, designed in the shape of a door stopper, comes apart making it easy to clean. From Oggetti (as above)

RIGHT Guzzini's Grippy cheese grater comes in a choice of blue, green, or orange jelly plastic and has a head-to-toe handle to keep it steady. Available for £7.50 from House of Fraser (0171-963 2000) or for £7.95 from Divertimenti (0171-935 0689)

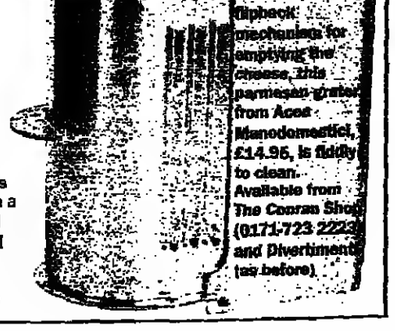


ABOVE A choice of two drums means that with a stainless steel Moulinex Moulí grater, £9.85, parmesan can be grated either finely or coarsely. From David Mellor (0171-730 4259)

LEFT Pricey at £23, the curvy blue plastic Blessi Parmenide grater has tha advantage of a catcher for holding the cheese as you grate and a removable stainless steel grate for easy cleaning. From Oggetti (0171-584 9808)

LEFT More a novelty than a useful kitchen utensil is tha carrot-shaped grater in orange and green, £2.25, from Saville-Edels (0171-351 1221). Mail order is available (p&p £1.95)

BELOW This award-winning Parma cheese grater sits in a moulded-plastic catcher with a lid and has an anti-slip bottom. Available in five pastel colours. From Bodum (0171-240 9176) for £8.99 and House of Fraser (as before) for £10



Although stylish, and with a handy flipback mechanism for emptying the cheese, this parmesan grater from Acos Manodomestici, £14.95, is fiddly to clean. Available from The Conran Shop (0171-723 2223) and Divertimenti (as before)

GADGETS

WHERE there's muck there's money, but with a Gardenwise Composter where there's muck there's manure. The composter arrives packed flat and assembly of the four side panels, slotting tongue and groove corner joints together, is a little tricky but worth the effort.

The garden composter

It is made from charcoal-black recycled polypropylene and, with squinted eyes, looks vaguely like it is in moulded cast iron. Roughly 30in square and 33in tall, it has a large square lid.

Into this sturdy composter can be thrown all manner of biodegradable waste, such as household food scraps and grass cuttings. The layers rot down to produce humus and nutrient-rich soil, ideal for spreading around flower beds or vegetable patches.

Sliding traps at the bottom of each panel allow easy access with a spade to the compost. To speed up the manufacture, you can sprinkle lime among the rotting layers as they build up. Worms find this is all too tempting, a veritable feast, so they will find their own way in to Composter's restaurant. They also accelerate the soil-making process, so proving that even when we think life stinks, some good can come of it.

IF YOU have neither a gardening partner nor two pairs of hands another indispensible garden gizmo is the Rubbish Bag Loader, which holds open plastic refuse sacks so you can actually load them without sweat and tears.

This loader is a round, stiff and flat sheet which slips into binliners to make them rigid and self-standing to keep them wide open. Since the loader is snag-proof, many rose growers hold it dear to their hearts.

TIM WAPSHOTT

● *Gardenwise Composter, £59.95, from Lakeland Ltd (015394 88100). Rubbish Bag Loader, £7.95 plus p&p, from Innovations (0870 908 7070).*

هكذا من الاصل

Joanna Pitman

Alice had been all set for a spiffing infanthood: wild, irresponsible and self-indulgent. But those ugly sisters, peer pressure and competition, have already begun to sidle up to her cradle and tap her gently on the shoulder. The first sneaked up in the form of well-intentioned advice from some friends, 12 months ahead of us in this parenthood business — properly-licensed parents compared to us, still wearing our L-plates.

It all began over a babyish chat one lunchtime. Had we got Alice her black and white mobile yet, they asked. We looked at each other blankly. Alice has a very jolly animal mobile in cheeky bright colours which swivels overhead to the tune of a Brahms lullaby. But no, nothing in black and white, we said. "Oh, you *must* get her one," they urged. "Terribly good for visual development. Our daughter is way ahead of her peers already in terms of visual cognition. The midwife and the doctor both said so." No doubt she'll be swotting for her GCSEs soon.

The black and white "Stimulation Mobile", with its high-contrast patterns, apparently helps to develop a baby's visual skills and speeds up its learning patterns. The baby becomes better at "self-educating". A bit like a self-basting chicken, I suppose. It sounds rather ridiculous, but in my current sleep-deprived state, I'm beginning to wonder whether we ought to get one.

● ALICE is almost ready for her second bout of immunisations. The first round was an unmitigated disaster for all concerned. For a start, in my eagerness to avoid a fever after the injection, I gave her a dose of Sugar Free Calpol as a preventative measure. If there is one certainty emerging in Alice's short life, it is that she and Sugar Free Calpol do not agree with each other. By the time I'd got her to the clinic, she'd worked herself up into a furious rage, all pumping legs and livid screams. I was beginning to consider earplugs as we got to the doctor's surgery. "Isshallithie?" asked the doctor. "What?" I yelled. "I said, Is She Always Like This?" she bellowed. "No, she's normally very calm," I yelled back. The doctor looked long and hard at me as if I was bonkers and then with a grim smile turned to pin poor Alice down on the bed. After a few swift developmental checks, she was punctured in the thigh with a cocktail of diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and Hib (the vaccine to protect against pneumonia, meningitis and blood poisoning). The mouth opened in a silent scream of horror as the needle went in, and then a little dose of polio was squirted down her throat. Wailing confusion was immediately restored and Alice looked up at me through tearful eyes as if to say, "Why are you hurting me? I thought you loved me?" I looked down and realised that my shirt was soaked with home-made milk — the breasts leak heavily when maternal anxiety rises above a certain level. I mined swift thanks to the doctor and we swept back into the waiting room to be greeted by five pairs of extremely anxious maternal eyes awaiting their turn for this torture. I can only hope that the second round will be less traumatic.

● I WAS sitting at a pavement café last week, gently rocking Alice in her pram and minding my own business, when a couple of mums sat down at the next table and manoeuvred their prams into similar rocking positions. Being members of the same club, we nodded and smiled at each other, just as drivers of MGs nod and wave at each other when passing on the road. I carried on reading my book, but couldn't help overhearing my neighbours' conversation. One of the mothers, it appeared, had not yet chosen a name for her four-week-old son. She and her partner seemed to have gone through names like Kleenex, failing to agree. This, I soon realised, was hardly surprising given that the mother appeared to be fixated on a particular genre of name. So far she had narrowed down her choice to Tofu, Maize or Alfalfa (presumably Alfie for short). I thought this was a bit much. "Aren't you putting your own expectations on him?" asked her friend. Quite right. What happens if when he grows up, he doesn't want to be a vegetarian? How would she have embraced life if her mother had named her Nut Roast?

● WE HAVE friends who also had a baby-naming dilemma. Their three-year-old twins, fascinated with their mother's bulging stomach, would daily recite a favourite rhyme: "Algie met a bear/ The bear was bulgie/The bulge was Algie." Finally a baby boy was born. While mother had planned to come home from hospital with a Tom, the twins logically declared this new person to be Algie. For weeks they all dithered, the parents calling him Tom and the twins calling him Algie. In the end the twins showed the greater tenacity. Algie he is.

School uniforms are big business for fashion houses and the high street where label wars have now hit the playgrounds

Uniform look at the fashion front

Buying school clothes is a minefield for parents, with pupils demanding designer labels and trendy outfits, says **Arabella Warner**

Last week I discovered that you can no longer buy sensible school shoes. I have scoured the shops for a flat, black lace-up for my nine-year-old daughter, but to no avail. All that can be found are teetering, tottering tower blocks of shoes, apparently built out of cast-off tractor tyres. Vivienne Westwood would be thrilled by the heels atop of which schoolgirls now stagger. And this is for a school with uniform requirements that stretch over several photocopied pages.

"I persuaded your daughter's school to put the regulation height up from 4cm to 4.5cm," explains Michael Greenwood, purveyor of shoes to children from north Oxford schools. He explains the problem with this pre-pubescent stampede for style: "There was simply not enough range of shoes with lower heels. For brands to sell to girls aged ten to 14, they have to follow fashion. We need to stock what girls insist on having."

My daughter was thrilled by the liberal new height edict as she carried away her box of de-on steamrollers, shoes so tall that she risks vertigo every time she climbs aboard. "Cool-ell," she said, just avoiding hitting her head on the ceiling as she tried them on. "I think I might even wear these out of school."

School uniform is now big business: a recent NOP poll suggested 70 per cent of the public support David Blunkett's notion of its compulsory reintroduction to all schools.

The fashion houses and high-street chains are rubbing their hands at the thought of all that action. Exploiting the flexibility inherent in the basic regime of white shirt, grey jumper and blue skirt or trousers, Marks & Spencer and Bhs are advertising school fashion items such as bootleg trousers. This is good news for the gels at Cheltenham Ladies College which broke with its 145-year tradition this year by allowing its sixth-formers to cover their legs.

Asda has doubled its George for School range this autumn. This includes white stretch-fabric shirts, grey bouclé cardigans and fur-collared jackets. "These are the fun options," says Jo Kendrick, George's marketing director. "We have tried to give children something they want to wear which the schools allow and the parents feel comfortable with."

Unfortunately for parental budgets, designer labels are competing too. Agnès b, French Connection and Kookaï are offering pricey takes on the uncoolest garment of all, the grey cardigan. While £26.50 will buy you a dress, tights and shirt at Bhs, none can compare with the limitless cred your daughter will gain from an £85 Ralph Lauren white blouse. Or so she tells me.

So great are the pressures from teenagers to be allowed to attend school in the "right" outfit that some mothers have been known to stitch designer labels into ordinary uniform, hoping their offspring will not notice the difference. Oh, all right, it was me.

There is no doubt that school uniform excites strong passions among parents. Some believe it instils a strong social pride; for others it represents all that they hate about a consipated education system which likes its children to conform and not express their individualism. Annelies Clarke, an artist who was born and educated in Holland which — like most of Europe and the United States — does not bother with school uniforms, cannot understand the British obsession with the subject. "Very strict uniform is ghastly — it makes the children look like an army of little adults," she says. "It puts the emphasis on the wrong thing — appearance rather than learning. And you don't get rid of class differences by dressing yourselves the same. You are only yourself in your own clothes."

> ‘Children are very competitive and uniform avoids all that’

Another problem is that there are different kinds of uniform, ranging from the extreme kind, found at private schools such as Eton and the Dragon prep school in Oxford, to the basic white shirt/blouse and black (or whatever) trousers/skirt in many comprehensive schools. While the extreme kind does not offer much scope for the wearer to customise it, the standard uniform can be an open invitation to join the label wars.

"The kind of uniform we have reduces the competitiveness considerably," says Trevor Allen, head teacher of Dorothy Stringer High School in Brighton, Sussex, where the school's only requirement is that students wear white tops and black bottoms. "It's the kind of uniform the kids don't mind wearing outside school, so it's rarely flouted and gives them ample opportunity to show their individuality.

"However, we do maintain a uniform because it gives a sense of social cohesion and identity. It's also important for security reasons. Somebody on the school campus without a uniform soon stands out."

Richard Townend, director of music at Hill House School in London, where the children sport a distinctive arrangement of rust-coloured knickerbockers and chunky gold pullovers, designed by his mother more than 40 years ago, believes it is a social leveller. "The main point of the school uniform is the idea that all children, rich and poor, look the same," he says, though you wonder how many poor children there are at a school where a year's fees cost upwards of £4,500.

"They should be colourful, comfortable and practical. Children are very competitive and uniform avoids all that. We don't even allow watches. They'd be swapping a Rolex for a Timex and getting into all kinds of trouble."

This is a practical view of uniform echoed by Roger Trafford, headmaster of the Dragon, where boys and girls wear a charming corduroy outfit straight out of *Just William*.

"Really, it shouldn't be about having to worry about designer clothes," says Mr Trafford. "There's plenty of time to do that at home. We try and teach the kids that there are different clothes for different occasions — you don't play in the mud in your school uniform, but when you are working you should be dressed appropriately. Children behave and react better when they are more uniformly dressed."

Many of the Dragon pupils progress to Eton, where the uniform of tails, morning trousers and stiff collars (more than £300) is now so evocative of all things quaint and English that photographing the boys has become essential for Japanese tourists.

"You wouldn't, perhaps, invent it from scratch but it has become an Eton trademark," says John Lewis, the school's headmaster. "And it's practical and comfortable and warm. I recently conducted consultations with the boys and it was clear they would prefer no uniform at all if given the choice, but if they were obliged to have anything, they would prefer to stick with what they had."

For parents, anything that stops that argument in the morning over what to wear has got to be the easiest option. For me, that means a practical, comfortable school uniform. And on the shoes front, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Flat heels are gracing the Paris catwalk this autumn; in Los Angeles and New York the chic are seen in nothing else. Which, with a bit of luck, means they will be in Clark's by this time next year.

Back to front ideas about dyslexia

Schools are still reluctant to help dyslexic children, says **Fred Redwood**

To readers of A.A. Gill's caustic columns in *The Sunday Times* it explains everything. The slayer of all things politically-correct, pretentious or Welsh, was, as a schoolboy, left to struggle unaided with that most debilitating of learning difficulties, dyslexia. Little wonder his wit now cuts so deep.

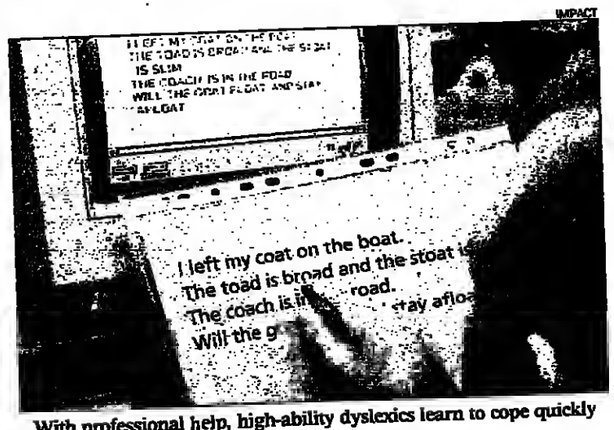
"I was treated with immense suspicion by teachers," he says. "I was known to have a very high IQ but my work was atrocious. I still remember some of the unkind comments. History, for example, was a subject I adored but the teacher told me, 'There's no point in you studying history. You can't even write.'"

A.A. Gill used guile to overcome his problems. As a student, he chose to study art at the Slade where the ability to write was not of overriding importance. To this day he goes to great lengths to compensate for his dyslexia. His articles would be illegible to copytakers so he dictates them instead.

However, not all young people have A.A. Gill's tenacity, and his experiences illustrate a major shortfall in our education system: the reluctance of local education authorities to cope with the child who is extremely intelligent and dyslexic.

The predicament of Sarah Hanson from Ealing, West London, is typical. With three dyslexic sons, she sought special help for her youngest, Freddie. "He was showing classic signs of dyslexia — problems with sequencing, speech difficulties and letter reversal. An educational psychologist found he had an IQ of 137, which is very high. But for two years the school refused to acknowledge he was dyslexic until Freddie failed his aptitude tests in reading and writing."

During that interim period Freddie developed behavioural problems — a direct result of his frustration at not being able to learn. The school's solution was to exclude him at lunch times and to imply that his poor behaviour was due to lack of discipline at home. It was only after Mrs Hanson complained to the governing body that one-to-one help with a special needs teacher was arranged. Even then, it was suggested that this help should be found by withdrawing the extra tuition being provided for her elder son, Leo. Since starting the two 40-minute sessions each week, Freddie's reading and writing has improved dramatically and his behaviour is no longer a problem.



With professional help, high-ability dyslexics learn to cope quickly

Schools are reluctant to provide extra help for bright dyslexics because they are short of money. They can even sometimes mislead parents in order to protect their coffers. Mrs Hanson was told that she had "missed the funding deadline" when she had, in fact, given the school adequate time to make arrangements. Parents should remember that after a child has been "statemented" as having special educational needs, it is the authority's obligation to provide extra help.

Neil Mackay is a teacher and dyslexia expert who lectures on the subject throughout the country. He can recite a catalogue of excuses given by schools for not finding extra help for high-ability dyslexics. "Most popular are the 'weasel words'," he says. "Teachers say 'he isn't ready to read yet'; others say 'there are others far worse in the class than your child' or point out that the child is only about a year behind the norm in terms of reading age. This misses a vital point — that a ten-year-old child with an IQ of 135 should be expected to have a reading age of 14-plus. If he has a reading age of nine then he is lagging five years behind his potential ability."

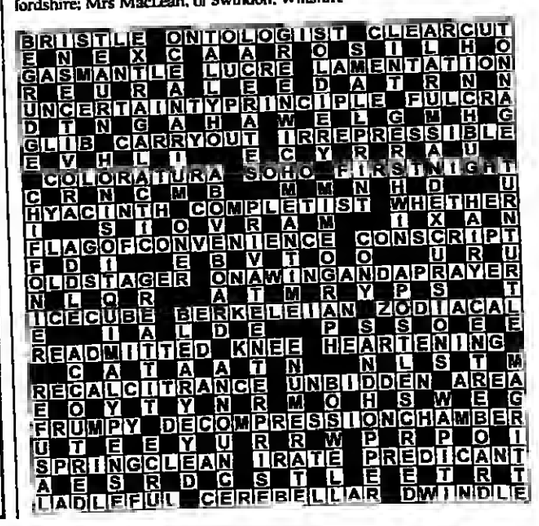
With appropriate professional help, high-ability dyslexics can learn to cope quickly. All too often, however, parents are forced to go to the private schools to find the quality of provision their children need.

A.A. Gill has no doubt who is to blame for the current state of affairs. "I never meet a middle-class parent nowadays with a child who is quite simply thick," he says. "Instead, they are all, apparently, dyslexic, which is ludicrous. Dyslexia now has a cachet. It's associated with a sensitive, artistic nature. It has become fashionable. But there is a real danger here. By pinning this label to all their children, parents are giving them a ready made excuse to fail."

● *British Dyslexia Association helpline 0118 9668271*

SOLUTION TO BANK HOLIDAY JUMBO 183

The winners of £100 are Peter B. Armstrong, of Slough, Buckinghamshire; Mrs M. Laidman, of Preston, Lancashire; Peter Slater, of Sheffield; John McFarlane, of Milton Keynes; Mrs P.P. Miller, of Cranfield, Bedfordshire; Mrs MacLean, of Swindon, Wiltshire



If you prefer not to receive such mailings please tick this box ☐ C1044

The cat's whiskers: Sprite

THE LADY'S NORFOLK HAT

now available in navy

Summer sale every hat must go!

£20.95 plus £2 p&p

SALE

- Essential protection from the harmful effects of the sun
- Washable, foldable and fully packable
- Light and comfortable - allows your head to breathe
- 100% pre-shrunk cotton

Available in Natural, Navy, Pale Pink and Pale Blue. Sizes S 54-55cm, M 56-57cm, L 58cm and XL 59cm.

Call for other sale prices!

For 48hr Despatch Call Low Cost

0845 602 0231

FOLDS FLAT FOR TRAVEL

Norfolk Hats,
140 Battersea Park Road,
London SW11 4NB
Fax 0171 498 0990
www.norfolkhats.co.uk

Please specify if you do not wish to receive details of other offers.

A SHIRT by SEYMOURS is individually made to measure

- EXACT SLEEVE LENGTH ✓
- CORRECT BODY SIZE ✓
- CHOICE OF COLLAR SHAPES ✓
- CHOICE OF FRONT STYLES ✓
- CHOICE OF CUFF STYLES ✓
- CHOICE OF SHOULDER FIT ✓
- CHOICE OF BODY LENGTH ✓
- CHOICE OF 400 FABRICS ✓
- TAILS OR SQUARE BOTTOMS ✓
- FULL STANDARD or SLIM FITS ✓
- AFTER SALES SERVICE ✓
- IMPECCABLY HAND CUT & SEWN ✓
- And of course THE FINEST QUALITY ✓

ALSO MADE TO MEASURE CLASSICAL LADIES SHIRT BLOUSES.

WRITE OR PHONE for 400 fabric samples and our colour brochure.

Seymour Shirts EST. 1923
FREEPOST, Dept XX, Bradford, BD1 1BR. Tel: 01274 726520

CASTLE COMBE SKID PAN

Learn how to control a car in wet or icy conditions. We provide the cars and instructions. Half day course is great fun and costs £69.50.

GIFT VOUCHERS MAKE EXCELLENT PRESENTS

Castle Combe Skid Pan
Castle Combe Circuit
Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN14 7EX
Tel: (01249) 782101

GENUINE BIRTHDAY NEWSPAPERS

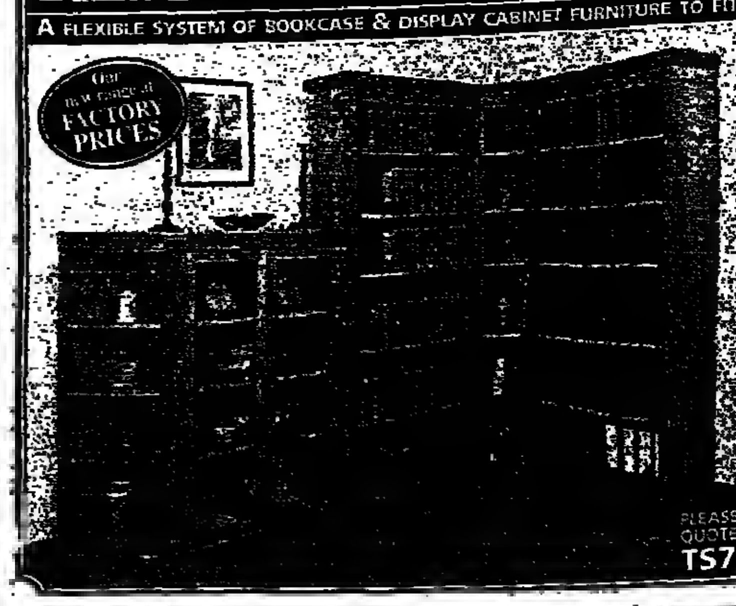
From largest archives saved from 1642-1998. Sunday Newspapers from 1915. Ready for presentation. Same day dispatch. REMEMBER WHEN 520 Purley Way, Croydon, Surrey CR0 4RE.

0181 688 6323
or call FREE 0500 520 000

West of England

REPRODUCTION FURNITURE

A FLEXIBLE SYSTEM OF BOOKCASE & DISPLAY CABINET FURNITURE TO FIT YOUR REQUIREMENTS



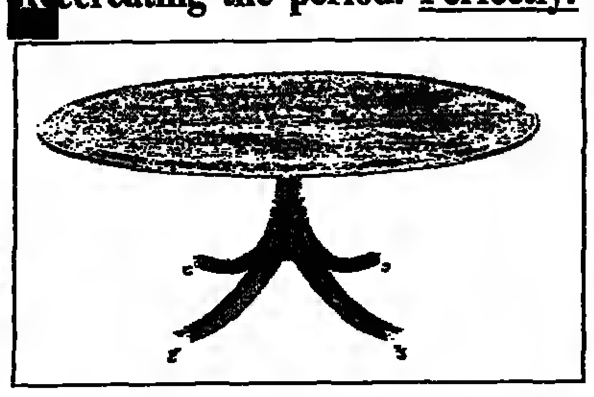
Our new range at FACTORY PRICES

SEND FOR OUR NEW BROCHURE & PRICE LIST

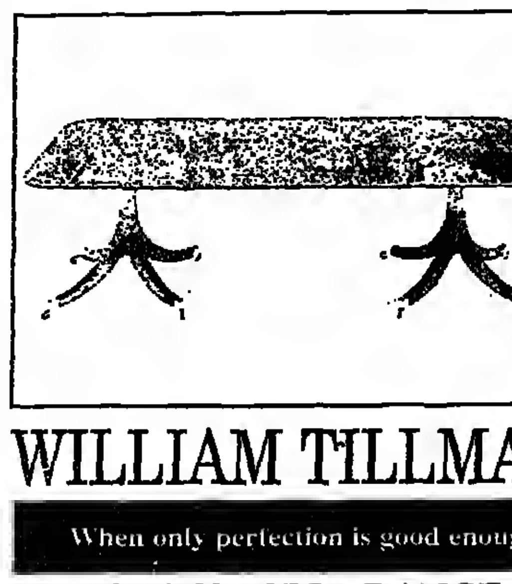
West of England REPRODUCTION FURNITURE
8 BARDEL COURT, HOUNDSTONE BUSINESS PARK, YEOVIL, SOMERSET BA22 8RU
TEL: 01935 706331
FAX: 01935 432238
Also at:- Weymouth: 01305 774771, Warwick: 01926 492378, Northampton: 01604 20789

PLEASE QUOTE TS7

Recreating the period. Perfectly.



At William Tillman our craftsmen lovingly create modern masterpieces that reproduce the finest examples of English 18th and 19th century furniture to perfection. Call now and let us introduce you to quality that cannot be surpassed anywhere.



WILLIAM TILLMAN

When only perfection is good enough

STOCK CLEARANCE UP TO 40% DISCOUNT

30, St James's Street, London SW1A 1HB
Telephone: 0171 839 2500 Fax: 0171 930 8106

14-24, Crouch Lane, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8LT
Telephone: 01732 883278 Fax 01732 884439

OVERCOME IMPOTENCE

AT THE SPECIALIST CLINICS which stocks and uses ALL effective treatments

Call for free consultation or literature

0800 163861

VIR CLINICS
21 SANDRINGHAM COURT
LONDON W1V 1FE

MEN

DOES YOUR POTENCY MATTER?

Our FREE report brochure details completely SAFE & NATURAL techniques you can use in your home to increase your size and improve your potency. Developed by Harley Street & World Wide Experts.

NO SURGERY OR INJECTIONS REQUIRED

Our many testimonials prove excellent results within 4 WEEKS. ACT NOW to receive your FREE report (sent under plain and confidential cover).

Send 3 x 1st class stamps to Dash Publishing (Dept TM), Freepost, PO Box 22 Plymstock Plymouth, PL9 0ZZ
email-dash-publishing@dept-o.dececn.co.uk

The "Sheila Maid"™

CAST IRON AND WOODEN FREE CLOTHES AIRER

Everything you need to install this "Energy Saving" Airer. 48 hr Despatch. Home Deliveries Worldwide. Est. 1986

Trade Account Enquiries UK/Overseas (Dept KJ)

THE TRADITIONAL CURVED SHAPE 1⅛" FULL WIDTH CAST IRON RACK ENDS

4 PINE, HAND FINISHED ROUNDED EDGE RAILS, NATURAL JUTE PULLEY CORD, SCREW & PLUGS, RACK ENDS, PULLEYS, CLEAT IN 4 COLOURS

THE 'ORIGINAL' (Coating Grey Metal Clear Coated)

5F £36	6ft £38	7ft £40	8ft £42

Colours (Ceilings Red, Blue, Green, Black, White) -

5F £34	6ft £36	7ft £38	8ft £40

P&P ADD £5. ORDER BY PHONE MASTERCARD/VISA OR BY CHEQUE/PO. Illustrated details from S.A.Johnston. THE DOMESTIC PARAPHERNALIA Co. Dept T, Unit 15 Marlow Business Centre, Dock Rd, Lytham, Lancs FY8 5AJ England. Tel 01253 736334 (24hrs). Fax 01253 795191

Hand tailored Plus Twos and Trousers for Gentlemen

From £39.95

Choose from moleskin, tartan, cord, flannel, tweed and golf checks.

- Made to measure service available
- Ideal for golf and country wear
- Overseas orders welcome

Call 0113 248 8160 for your FREE brochure

STAMFORD CLOTHIERS

Dept TT, 17 Cowper Road, Leeds LS9 7HR
www.stamford-clothiers.co.uk

MEN

LOSS OF ERECTION POWER?

Improve your erection power now with the medically tested Dr Blatoe's Energising Ring. It is the only device of its kind ever to have been successfully investigated – the report appearing in one of the world's leading medical publications.

You could join the hundreds of thousands of men who have been helped by this remarkable device.

Write now for free confidential details, or include £1.00 in stamps for the book "Confidential to Men" by Dr Roland Wells, to:

Blatoe (7698), 225 Putney Bridge Road, London SW15 2PY. Telephone 0181 874 1130

West of England

REPRODUCTION FURNITURE

AT FACTORY PRICES IN MAHOGANY, YEW & OAK

CORNER CABINETS 7 different cabinets in 2 sizes from £225

BOOKCASES Break-front and Straight-front from 3' - 9' wide and 6' - 7' high.

TABLES & CHAIRS
7' Mahogany table with 2 Carvers and 4 Chairs from £645. Over 40 varieties of tables to suit homes of all sizes. Over 30 designs of chair in traditional designs.

- Polish to your specification to match existing furniture in lounge, dining room or kitchen.
- Best quality and top value.
- Widest range covering Tables, chairs, sideboards, bookcases, Display Cabinets, TV & Hi-Fi Cabinets, occasional pieces etc.
- FREE DELIVERY for orders over £1000 throughout the South of England, otherwise a nominal charge.

HAND-MADE OAK
A complete range of traditional hand-made Oak & Ash Dressers, Refectory Tables, Gate-Leg tables and Chairs.

TV & HI-FI CABINETS
To suit equipment of all sizes. prices from £165

DESKS
From 3' x 20" to 6' x 4'. Prices from £250 - £2450

ALL PRICES INCLUDE VAT.

FREE COLOUR BROCHURE & PRICE LIST

West of England Reproduction Furniture
8 Bardel Court, Houndstone Business Park, Yeovil, Somerset. BA22 8RU
TEL: 01935 706331 • FAX: 01935 432238
Also at:- Weymouth: 01305 774771 • Warwick: 01926 492378 Northampton: 01604 20789

PLEASE QUOTE TS1

"Buy Stannah. You can't afford not to."

RAYMOND BAXTER

Free survey. Fast installation. 24-hour call out. Full warranty.

Call or write **0800 715 422 ext. 5193**

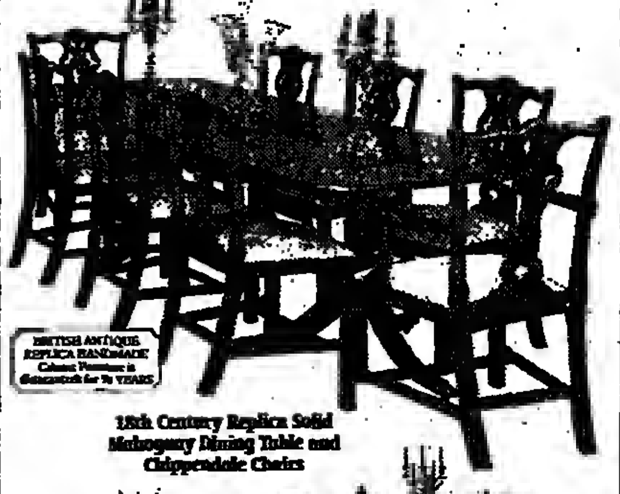
Name
Address
Postcode
Tel. No.

Stannah Stairlifts, Dept 5193, FREEPOST SA344, Andover, Hants SP10 3BR.

Stannah Stairlifts

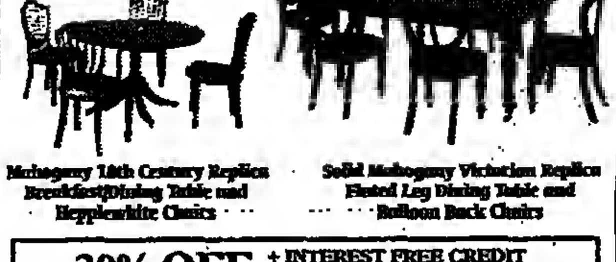
The world's most chosen stairlift

Antique Replicas



BRITISH ANTIQUE REPLICA HANDMADE Cabinet Furniture & Guaranteed for 50 YEARS

18th Century Replica Solid Mahogany Dining Table and Chippendale Chairs



Mahogany 18th Century Replica Breakfast/Dining Table and Hepplewhite Chairs

Solid Mahogany Victorian Replica Fluted Leg Dining Table and Balloon Back Chairs

20% OFF + INTEREST FREE CREDIT + FREE UK DELIVERY
OFFER MUST END 30th SEPTEMBER

Visit our interesting and fascinating Factory & Superstore Showrooms to see the World's largest display of fine English Antique Replica Furniture made by Master Craftsmen to a standard unsurpassed this century in three separate ranges to suit all life styles and income groups or phone for brochure.

Mon-Sat 9am-5.30pm

BRITISH ANTIQUE REPLICAS

32 SCHOOL CLOSE, QUEEN ELIZABETH AVE., BURGESS HILL (BETWEEN GATWICK & BRIGHTON) WEST SUSSEX RH15 9RX

Tel: 01444 245577

A SMALL price to pay for such a WEALTH of inspiration.

Available now, 36 pages of pure inspiration - gifts, interiors and fashions. Just £2.50 with a voucher worth £5.00 off your first order. Inspired? Call 01672 542288

Name:
Address:
Postcode:

V&A MUSEUM INSPIRING DESIGN

RETURN YOUR DETAILS, TOGETHER WITH A CHEQUE FOR £2.50 MADE PAYABLE TO V&A ENTERPRISES LTD, FREEPOST (SCE6701), MARLBOROUGH SN8 2YY (NO STAMP NECESSARY) VA/TM/1

Totally NEW!

The ORECK XL

50% More Powerful - With 15 Enhancements!

AS SEEN ON TV

And it still picks up sand, cat hair, dust, dust mites and much more!

The ORECK XL weighs 8½ lbs. It's the most powerful full-size vacuum cleaner available. The brushes revolve at a remarkable 6,500 times a minute to remove even the most deeply embedded dirt. Arranged in a double helix pattern to cover a wide area, they drive dirt into the suction path. They lift and comb the carpet fibres for a professionally groomed look.
The ORECK XL automatically adjusts for other surfaces - vinyl, linoleum, hardwood or ceramic tile. The exclusive patented Microsweep® picks up grains of sand from a kitchen floor. The 5-stage Hypo-Allergenic Filtration System traps particles less than 0.1 micron in size.
The Helping Hand® Handle, available only on an ORECK Vacuum lets you use it without bending your wrist or closing your hand. A boon for people with hand or wrist problems. No wonder over one million professional and home users won't have any other cleaner.

Enhanced Features

1. Fingertip On/Off Switch on the Helping Hand® Handle.
2. New ORECK XL is 50% more powerful.
3. NEW CELOC Hypo-Allergenic outer bag traps particles smaller than a human hair.
4. Easy-On Attachment Dock to replace a disposable bag in seconds.
5. Saniseal automatically seals bags for removal. Your hands never touch dirt!
6. Revamped dirt-flow path reduces clogging.
7. Quieter high-efficeincy motor-40% longer life.
8. Wear and break resistant Metaxalloy motor fan.
9. High speed balanced wheels aid brushes to whirl twice as fast.
10. Non-marring bumper.
11. Longer side brushes for superb edge cleaning.
12. Floor-guard rollers protect hardwood, marble, tile.
13. Cord-guard prevents rollover damage.
14. Soft, non-marring wheels.
15. Easy-access door, extra long-lasting belts.

TAKE THE ORECK CHALLENGE

SEND NO MONEY NOW! Phone FREE for a 15 Day No Risk Trial on: 0800 684 684 and ask for ext. 1957

The supplier of this product is Salestrap Ltd. as an agent for Oreck Corporation, Cowley Bridge Road, Exeter, Devon EX4 5HQ.

FREE With Purchase

For everything above the floor

Super-Powerful Compact Canister

The 4lb dynamo seen on TV has the cleaning power of a heavy industrial machine. *Hand-holdable or shoulder worn, it* complements the ORECK upright. Cleans under refridgerators, car seats, bookshelves, 13 foot ceilings, high corners, curtains, blinds even typewriter, computer and piano keys. Complete with 9 accessories. It's yours **FREE** when you purchase an ORECK XL upright.

SEND NO MONEY NOW! POST COUPON TODAY.

☐ Yes, please call me to arrange a free 15-day home trial of the ORECK XL.
☐ Yes, I want to learn how I can get my home ORECK clean. Please send me a free information pack without cost or obligation. I understand I will receive absolutely FREE an ORECK Super Compact Canister with the purchase of the ORECK XL vacuum cleaner.
☐ Also include details of ORECK's 12-month Payment Plan. No Interest or Finance Charge. 1957

Name
Address
Postcode
Tel: Day Eve:

Please return this coupon to Oreck Corporation, FREEPOST (EX151), Exeter, EX1 1AZ.
We'll pay the postage - you do not need a stamp.
Send no money now. No obligation. No sales person will visit.
If you do not wish to receive further special offers from companies we recommend, please tick this box ☐. Calls may be monitored for quality assurance.

Stop Limescale Forever.

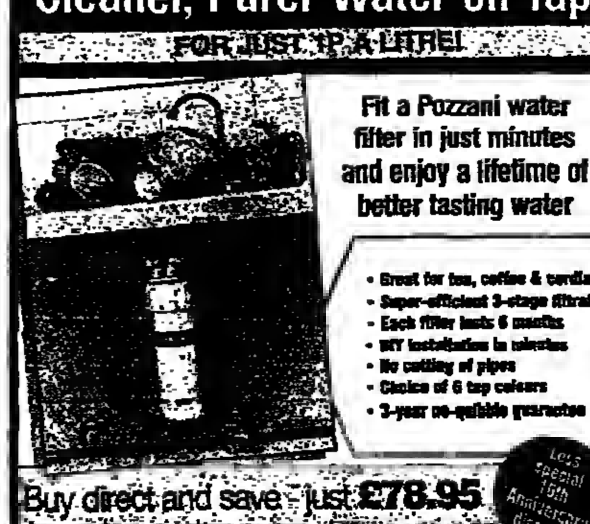
With a Pozzani computerised 'Black Box' Scale Inhibitor

- Prevents and removes limescale caused by hard water
- No more blocked shower heads
- Simply wipe away scale on sinks and baths
- Longer lasting washing machines, dishwashers and boilers (no furring up of heating elements)
- Fits in minutes with no plumbing
- Just £2 a year to run - maintenance free
- 5 year guarantee
- 3 month money-back guarantee if not completely satisfied

Special introductory price £74.96

Cleaner, Purer Water on Tap.

FOR JUST 1P A LITRE!



Fit a Pozzani water filter in just minutes and enjoy a lifetime of better tasting water

- Great for tea, coffee & cordials
- Super-efficient 3-stage filtration
- Each filter lasts 6 months
- DIY installation in minutes
- No cutting of pipes
- Choice of 6 tap colours
- 3-year no-quibble guarantee

Buy direct and save - just £78.95

Less special 10th Anniversary discount

Replacement water filter cartridges. Save £££s on cartridges for filter jugs and plumbed in units. Guaranteed quality, please advise make and model (if known).

Pozzani are the experts in water filtration, with 10 years experience and over 20,000 units sold. Insist on Pozzani for high quality, value-for-money systems with unrivalled technical support. Pozzani also manufacture systems for:
- Private water supplies
- Water softening
- Reverse osmosis/ultra pure water production
- UV disinfection and specialist filtration systems

FOR A FREE BROCHURE CALL FREEPHONE **0800 0740290** (24 hours)

or write to: Pozzani Pure Water Plc, Dept. TM1209, Warwick Road, Fairfield Industrial Estate, Louth, Lincs LN11 0YB
Phone 01507 608100 email:

1. The artery is full of fatty cells which deposit themselves on the artery walls. 2 & 3 Through what you eat, you can gradually reduce this fat in your arteries.

"Your Arteries Can Clean Themselves"

by Alexis Amziev

It has been medically proven by numerous studies that you can reduce the fat deposits in your blood through the foods you eat. And, as a result, reduce your risk of coronary heart disease.

In a recent book Alexis Amziev explains how a natural diet can significantly improve arterial problems. He questions the traditional 'anti-cholesterol' diets and their ability to keep your arteries free from fat. Also, contrary to what has been recommended for years, is butter eaten in reasonable quantities better for your artereis than margarine?

People who have tried it are enthusiastic and say: 'My legs don't burt now' *(MB, restaurant owner)*. 'My blood pressure is fine, I've no more ringing in my ears' *(JV, from T)*. 'My cholesterol and triglycerides have gone back to normal. I no longer have any weight problems and yet I eat well' *(DF, from V)*. 'My arteries are clean. I don't have to stay still any more to avoid feeling pain' *(NE, a secretary)*.

Alexis Amziev's fascinating book allows you to eat enjoyably while at the same time maintain the health of your arteries.

Results – or your money back
We suggest you follow the advice given in this book for 3 months, at our risk. During this time you can send the book back to us if you are not entirely satisfied and we will refund your money – in full, by return.

Free gift! Now (while stocks last) you will receive, with the book, a test which enables you to measure your risk of heart disease, together with some very useful guidance on what needs to be done in the event of a heart attack – remember, it is absolutely essential to act quickly and correctly. To receive these free gifts return the coupon below – today, as you have nothing to lose.

© 1998 Carnell Ltd, 28 Charles Square, London N1 6HT Reg. in England No. 3124002, VAT Reg. No. 577 7413 03

To: Carnell Ltd, Dept YA65, Alresford, Colchester, Essex CO7 8AP *or telephone our 24 hour order line on 0870 840 3000 (quoting Dept. code).*
YES please send me, by return, Alexis Amziev's book *'Your Arteries Can Clean Themselves'* (together with the free gifts) on the understanding I can return the book at any time within 3 months for a refund if not satisfied.

☐ I enclose my cheque/PO for £9.95 *(which includes postage and handling)* made payable to Carnell Ltd
☐ Please charge my Visa/Master/Switch card no:

Expiry Date Issue No. (Switch)
Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms) Date of Birth / /
Address
Postcode
Signed Date

Delivery usually within 7 days but please allow up to 14 days. We hope to be able to bring you a variety of further interesting offers from reputable companies – if you prefer not to receive such offers, please write to Carnell Ltd at the above address.

مكرا من الأصل

For this week's challenge, **David Bowker** learns that living in the past can seriously damage his health

Undoing the devil's work

Last Saturday, my wife and I went house-hunting in Barnes. An estate agent showed us round a modest three-bedroomed home in good repair. We fell in love with the place and at the end of the tour the agent invited us to make an offer. "Remember that we're talking six figures here," he advised me with a wink. Bearing in mind the house's desirable riverside location and the soaring cost of property in London, I decided to be realistic and offered him three hundred pounds, eighteen shillings and tenpence. The estate agent turned pale. He was clearly not used to dealing with such wealthy clients.

On Monday night, a most regrettable episode occurred. I caught my two-year-old son listening to the wireless when he should have been reading his Bible. I am a firm believer that prolonged wireless listening is to blame for most of the evil in today's so-called "trendy" society. I turned off the wireless and sent him to bed. When my wife found out what I'd done, she brought him downstairs, seated him front of the wireless and turned it back on. Forcefully, I declared: "I am the master of this house and you shall obey me." My wife and son rolled about on the floor, bent double with laughter.

Who is the young Val Doonican fellow that all the women are clamouring for? On Tuesday, I chanced upon a photograph of the said performer in the *Radio Times*. I was shocked to learn that he once performed before the Queen without a tie, or even a dinner jacket. Instead, he wore the most gaudy knitwear imaginable. As if this weren't bad enough, the uncouth fellow regularly appears on stage sitting in a chair, although his audience is often full of ladies. In my day, we gentlemen were taught to stand in the presence of a lady. Mr Doonican obviously has no morals. Needless to say, I shall not be purchasing any of his long-playing records.

One artiste that I do have time for is the popular comedian Arthur Askey. He is invariably correctly attired, wears sensible spectacles and his humour is good-natured and inoffensive. On Wednesday, I visited the *His Master's Voice* musical emporium in Oxford Street to purchase one of his gramophone recordings as a birthday surprise for my wife. At the counter, I was confronted by a most unsightly young hooligan whose hair extended far beyond his collar. I asked this dubious individual for a copy of big-hearted Arthur's latest 78. He sneered and advised me to visit an antique shop. When I persisted, he explained that the *store stocked a recording by Mr Askey* but it was not available at 78 revolutions per minute.

SEVEN LONG DAYS

I said: "Well, what *is it* available on?"

"CD," the youth replied.

I demanded to see the manager, and a young woman was sent out. I presume she was the manager's secretary. I told her that I had heard the youth describe me as "seedy" and that nothing short of his dismissal would console me. But while I was awaiting this, two tall ruffians disguised as security guards escorted me forcibly off the premises.

To calm my nerves, I went to Marble Arch to watch the public hanging. But I couldn't find the gallows, so I went for a walk in Kensington Gardens. By the Round Pond, I was startled to see a lady of marriagable age careering about on some kind of board with wheels. Fearing for her life, I gave chase and I caught up with her by the bandstand. When I tried to help her to safety, the lady insulted me in terms that would have made a navigator blush. "Don't diss me, man!" she exclaimed. I explained that I had no intention of doing anything of the kind.

Adopting a fatherly tone, I warned her that persistent use of her mechanical board could jeopardise her chances of bearing children. "You are weak, like all ladies, and should be mindful of how you exert yourself." I don't know what happened next, but I woke up in a horribly "trendy" hospital. I knew it was trendy because the man in the next bed was listening to a wireless.

WEEKEND COURSES AND ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER 18-20

Landscape photography on the Yorkshire Moors and Dales, with David Hemmings. Price for three days, £235, all inclusive. ARPS (01908 240460).

Yoga for everyone at Kirkby Fleetham Hall, North Yorkshire. Price, all inclusive, £95. Yoga Centre (0181-644 0309).

East Anglian steam railways: Making your camera work for you; Improve your watercolours. At the Flatford Mill Field Studies Centre, East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex (01206 298283). Price £105 residential, £85 non-residential.

John Ruskin, his life and work. At the Maryland College, Woburn, Beds (01525 292901). Price, £99 residential.

A choral weekend with Alexander Chaplin, concentrating on 16th and 17th-century music. At the Benslow Music Trust, Hitchin, Herts (01462 459446). Residential £111, non-residential £91.

Walking and traditional music weekends in Ireland. With Green Boreen Walking Holidays of Feakle (00 353 61 924303). Price £125.

The Green Man: myth and symbolism. At the Castle Head Field Centre, Grange-over-Sands (015395 34300). Residential £104, non-residential £80.

Sports car racing: Multi-activity weekend — abseiling, climbing, white-water rafting; walking weekend in Radnor Forest. Cycling weekends along the Welsh Border. Prices from £120, inclusive. Acorn Activities of Hereford (01432 830083).

Making a teddy bear: Woodland toadstools; Painting. The Old Rectory, Fittleworth, Pulborough, Sussex (01798 865306). Prices from £114 residential, £97 non-residential.

A singing weekend. With Singing for Pleasure at Harrogate, Yorkshire (01277 353691). Price, all inclusive, £95.

The Grey Queens — Elizabeth Woodville and Lady Jane Grey; Surfing the Internet; Creative couples in art. The University of Nottingham (0115 9516526). Price per course, £115 residential, £90 non-residential.

Batik on silk; Life drawing; The Faust legend in music; Creative watercolours for beginners; Letter-carving. At the West Dean College, Chichester, Sussex (01243 811301). Price, £156 residendal.

Mounting and framing pictures; Elementary French: Using your PC; Bridge for improvers. At Earnley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392). Prices from £149 residential, £103 non-residential.

SEPTEMBER 25-27

Fungus fun at the Field Studies Council Centre, Nettlecombe Court, Taunton, Somerset (01984 640320). Price £133 residential, £108 non-residential.

Magic or masterful? Bridge is another game you can learn with courses for improvers and beginners

First World War battles; Chinese brush painting. At the Alston Hall Residential College, Preston, Lancs (01772 784661). Price £100 residential, £75, non-residential.

Reading classical Greek; English hymns; Woods of East Anglia. At the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01945 210636). Price per course, £120.

Wild cookery; Lakeland through the lens; Autumn woodlands at the Field Studies Council, Blencathra Field Centre, Keswick, Cumbria (017687 79601). Price from £104 residential, £80 non-residential.

Bridge for improvers: Writing and illustrating books for young people at Knuston Hall Centre, Irchester, Wellingborough, Northants (01933 312104). Price £92, residential.

Painting plants — early autumn colours: Suffolk's medieval houses: Watercolours for near beginoers. Flatford Mill Field Centre, East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex (01206 298283). Residendal £106, non-residential £82.

Getting started in watercolours: Dreams and fairy tales — a painting course: Colour photography: Stone carving. At the West Dean College, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 811301). Price £156, inclusive.

Open-cockpit flying in a bi-plane: Land yachting in Cambridgeshire. With Anglian Activity Breaks (01603 700770), prices up to £135.

British film studios — Shepherd's Bush: Delicious dinners in half an hour; Painting and sketching from photographs. All at Earnley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392). Residenrial £149, non-residendal £103.

Silversmithing and jewellery at Bromyard, Herefordshire, with Acorn Activides (01432 830083). Tuition and B&B, £184.

OCTOBER 2-4

Bridge for beginners: How to repair ceramics. Earnley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392). Prices from £149 residendal, £103 non-residendal.

Techniques for happiness with the University of Nottingham (0115 9516526), at Knuston Hall Residential College, Wellingborough, Northants. Price £105, residential.

The story of the First World War; China painting; Map reading aod orienteering. At Burton Manor College, South Wirral, Cheshire (0151-336 5172). Price £99.

The all-year-round garden. At Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset (01460 52427). Price £110, inclusive.

Drystone Walling; Astrology. With Entriken's Emporium, Wooler, Northumbria (01668 282188). Prices from £145.

Life Drawing. At the Belstead House Education and Conference Centre, Ipswich, Suffolk (01473 686321). Price £95 residendal, £75 non-residential.

Creative calligraphy; Greening your home and workplace: Improve your watercolours. Flatford Mill Field, East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex (01206 298283). Prices £105 residenrial, £82 non-residential.

Reading Latin; Drawing and painting autumn fruits and fungi. At the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 2107636). Price £120 residential, £68 non-residenrial.

Prehistoric Derbyshire: Lead, cotton and silk in the Derwent Valley. At the University of Nottingham, Cromford (0115 951 6526). Price per course, £140 inclusive.

Russia today. At the University of Oxford, Rewley House (01865 270368). A one-day course, £32.35.

Buying and owning a PC; Have fun singing jazz; The four seasons in watercolour at the Old Rectory Fittleworth, Sussex (01798 865306). Price per course from £114 residential, £97 non-residential.

Watercolour painting; Pottery for beginners; Introduction to journalism; Tassel-making. At the West Dean College, Chichester, Sussex. Price per course £156, inclusive.

Birdwatching for beginners; Fungi for beginners: Walking in the autumn landscape. At the Juniper Hall Field Centre, Dorking, Surrey (01306 883849). Prices from £102 residential, £78 non-residential.

ROBIN NEILLANDS

TO ADVERTISE CALL: 0171 680 6860

SHOPAROUND

FAX: 0171 782 7930

FREE! TRANSFERS TO VIDEO
CINE FILMS · SLIDES · PHOTOS
FREE OFFERS NOW
FREE INFORMATION PACK OR WRITE TO
TEL.(24 hours) 01454 772857
MEMORIES ON VIDEO 24 YORK GARDENS, WINTERBOURNE, BRISTOL. BS17 1QT

ANTIQUE DESKS
Large stock of old desks Oak, Mahogany, Walnut, Victorian, Edwardian, Rolltop, Cylinder, Partner's, Dickens and Pedestal Desks
Free delivery within mainland UK
DON SPENCER ANTIQUES WARWICK
(01926) 499857 or (01926) 407989
Mobile 0836 525755
www.antique-desks.co.uk
OLD DESKS PURCHASED
36a, Market Place, Warwick (Beneath Vintage Antique Centre)

SAME DAY DISCREET MAIL ORDER SERVICE
CONDOMS
CHECK OUT THESE SAVINGS!
Your name will not be recorded in any way. No follow-up mail. We only sell quality condoms. Send your order or send for FREE colour brochure
CHEQUES/PO's to QUICK & DIRECT (Dept TT12/9), FREEPOST (KT4162) WALTON ON THAMES, SURREY KT12 1BR (Tel: 01932 232443)

Pure Silk Knitted Brief
£6.95 for one style
SPECIAL OFFER £2.00 off each extra pair
£2 P&P per order
Classic style with Y front, softly elasticated waist and legs, they are exceptionally comfortable to wear.
Colour: cream.
Sizes (fit waist): S(29"-32") M(33"-35") L(36"-38") XL(39"-42")
FREE colour Brochure
FOR ORDER OR BROCHURE PLEASE PHONE TEL 0171 274 3387(24hr) FAX 0171 346 0088
OR WRITE TO SILK

Treske solid wood Tables
For free catalogue showing full range of fine furniture please telephone
01845 522000 (Dept. T123)

Hard-To-Get Sizes
BEDLINEN
Valance Specialists. Any drop.
2'6" 3ft 3'6" 4ft 4'6" 5ft 6ft 7ft
Fitted Sheets any size. Any Depth.
'Special Sizes' Linen Catalogue...
Send Stamp today for Catalogue.
Keys Ltd. Dept SS510 132 Old Rd, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 3AJ
TEL: 01255 432518

Senior Citizens with money in the bank should read this before it's too late

If you have worked hard all your life and managed to put away a nest egg, you could end up losing most of your life savings because of exhorbitant nursing home fees that the State won't pay.

If you or your spouse suddenly became ill and require extended nursing care... NO ONE will help you with the nursing home bills until after you have used up virtually all of your savings – savings, intended to provide security and a bit of extra comfort in retirement, or help for your children.

What you can do

Is there anything you can do to stop this nightmare from happening to you? Yes, there are several ways you could protect yourself – your rights and the different methods of protecting your savings and home are now revealed in a new guide "How to Protect Your Assets Against Nursing Home Costs".

This financial self-defence manual explains the simple procedures for preserving your savings and warns of pitfalls to avoid. It shows how you can protect your home from being sold to pay for care costs.

It also shows how you can use your legal rights to protect your life savings for yourself, your spouse or your heirs. But it is absolutely essential you make any arrangements in good time. That's why you must consider your options TODAY – now, before it's too late.

How to order

To order your copy of "How to Protect Your Assets Against Nursing Home Costs" send your name, address and book title with payment (cheque, Switch or Visa/Access with expiry date) of £9.95 which inc. postage and handling to Carnell Ltd, Dept NHC43, Alresford, nr. Colchester, Essex CO7 8AP, or telephone their 24 hour order line on 0870 842 3000 (quoting above Dept. code). Allow up to 14 days for delivery. You may return the book any time within three months for a refund if not satisfied.

Hallmarked SILVER CUTLERY
The premier collection of fine English silver
Single pieces from £18 • Place sets from £148
Large sets from £1550
For a colour brochure write to:
LINCOLN HOUSE LTD
FREEPOST NEA 4252
Retford, Notts DN22 9BR
Phone 01777 818008 Fax 01777 818009
24 hours
MANY CLASSIC DESIGNS

MEN'S SATIN BRIEFS
4 PAIRS FREE
YES! 4 PAIRS ABSOLUTELY FREE!
SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER TO ALL READERS.
SPECIAL OFFER Normally £22.60 NOW FREE
TELEPHONE ORDERS 01782 611599
KINIKI Dept 38TT SPENCROFT RD NEWCASTLE STAFFS ST5 9GG

Luxurious pure duck feather pillows
Night-time comfort assured
only £14.95 a pair + p&p

THE SELECTION

To order by post, please complete coupon and send to The Selection, (C1044), Belton Road West, Loughborough, Leics LE11 5XL

Product	Qty	Price	Total
C1044/D254 Pair of duck feather pillows		£14.95	
C1044/D255 Two pairs of pillows, SAVE £2		£27.90	
Please remember to add £2.50 p&p			£2.50
GRAND TOTAL			

I enclose a crossed cheque/PO value £ ____ made payable to The Selection (no cash please) or debit my Visa/Delta/Amex/Switch account by the total above
Expiry date · Switch: Issue date · Switch: Issue No.
Signature
Mr/Mrs/Miss ___ Initials ___ Surname
Address
Postcode ___ Daytime Tel. No.
BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE
Reg. Office. Selection Marketplace Ltd, Belton Road West, Loughborough LE11 5XL Reg. No. 1566666
Data Protection Act: Occasionally we may make names and addresses available to carefully selected companies whose goods or services may be of interest to our customers. If you prefer not to receive such mailings please tick this box ☐
C1044

Enjoy the unparalleled luxury of 100% pure duck feather pillows – at a price that's truly unbeatable.

These superb quality pillows have been generously filled with 100% duck feathers for a blissful night's sleep, and at the low price of £14.95 a pair, they're unbeatable value too.

Cool in the summer thanks to the way that feathers naturally absorb excess moisture, they'll also keep you cosy in the winter due to their fine insulating qualities.

Each pillow measures 27ins x 18ins to fit standard pillowslips, and are finished with a cotton cambric cover which is piped for extra strength. They come with a five year guarantee.

Why not buy two pairs of these superb pillows for only £27.90 and save £2.

Although we despatch as soon as possible, please allow up to 21 days for delivery. Subject to availability. If you are not fully satisfied The Selection will refund your money if you return the goods undamaged within 7 days. Statutory rights are not affected. UK residents only.
The Selection, Belton Road West, Loughborough, Leics LE11 5XL

ORDER NOW
ON OUR 24 HOUR CREDIT CARD HOTLINE
01509 638637

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 0171 680 6868
FAX: 0171 481 9313

HOW TO PLACE YOUR OWN ADVERTISEMENT

TELEPHONE

0171 481 4000

For assistance on placing your ad and receiving your Rendezvous box number

POST, FAX OR E-MAIL

Post: Advertise for only £8.23 per line and a single box charge of £11.75 (box no. is open 28 days). Send in your wording, including your name, address, telephone no., credit card no., and expiry date to: The Times, Rendezvous, Classified Advertising, PO Box 484, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9BL.

Fax: 0171 481 9313 (send details as "Post")

E-mail: Lisa Ball@newsint.co.uk (send details as "Post")

HOW TO RESPOND TO AN ADVERTISEMENT

VOICE MAIL

☎ 0897 505 563
and then follow the simple voice instructions.
(calls cost £1.00 per minute (BT Premium Rates) at all times)

POST

All postal replies should be addressed to: Box No..... c/o The Times, Rendezvous, P.O. Box 3553, Virginia Street, London E1 9GA.

All advertisers will now receive postal replies and voice mail response facility at no extra charge.

ACROSS THE ROOM (Herts, Essex, Suffolk, Kent). Sparkling Parties, Candlelit dinners. 01277 352743 for brochure.

ANDOVER/Salisbury Elite for successful quality introductions tel 01202 653125: 24 hrs

Attractive educated Ladies/Men from overseas seek partners in UK Write World Pen Club/TM PO Box 4 Goring RG8 9DN

AUTUMN Alone? Life will be more interesting if you call Candlebureau Personal Introductions and relaxed social occasions for attractive professional people. Please call Cheryl Brown 0171 351 5535

BEAUTIFUL Thai Ladies. Colour brochure. Siam Introductions. Tel: 01689 860 880 (anytime).

BROMLEY Bexley SE/SW London Dartford Gravesend Looking for that special someone? Call Elite any time 0181 658 7576

CASCADE unattached aged over 30 to early 50's get yourself A new life Speak with Cascade The most civilised amiable social group in West Midlands, Bristol, Gloucestershire, South Wales +++ for those further afield 4 day Christmas break (24-28 Dec) ++New Years Eve Brochure 01495-75-53-09 www.CASCADEunattached.com

COVENT GARDEN Singles Drinks Parties Every Thurs & Saturday Ages 30-50. £15 Free drinks/buffet 07000 301501

GLOUCESTER/Worcs Elite For quality prof local introductions Freecall 0500 13-17-13

LEEDS/Bradford/Harrogate Elite Local introductions for business & prof people 01422 201166

MATCHMAKERS International Why wait for love Immediate introductions For All. 2 Norfolk Crescent Marble Arch, W2 2DN. Tel/Fax 0171 706 3897

NEWCASTLE/Durham/Teesside. Find someone special with Elite. Open 7 days Call Julia or Ian now 01670 505123

"Of all forms of caution, caution in love is perhaps the most fatal to true happiness" Bertrand Russell. Take control today, call: 0181 355 4211 Faces Cafe for Single Professionals 25-45

PICTURE DATING - A quality introduction agency you can afford. 0171 889 8884. ABIA. Est 1990.

PLUMP PARTNERS National Dating Agency. If you are plump or prefer a plump partner ring 01352 718909

RUSSIAN ladies, attractive & sincere, seek romance/marriage. IFM 01708 478697.

SHREWSBURY Shrop Mid/North Wales You'll be surprised how local we are Elite 0500 300336

SINGLES CLUB (Affiliated) for sociable professionals age 40+, join us for our winter season. Friendly group meets Tuesdays/Saturdays Guildford area. Phone Margaret/Brenda 01483 824094 or 532906

SUSSEX, Mid & West to E. Surrey. Successful introductions happen daily with your local Elite office. Call 01883 744405/01273 270975 and it could be you!

THE DINNER CLUB (Established '86) Join UK's largest upmarket singles dining club and enjoy dining, dancing, weekends away, holidays abroad. (01244) 548816

WESTCOUNTRY. For successful introductions and quality service call Elite 0800 214920

YORKSHIRE/ Humberside Elite Quality local introductions, all ages. Freephone 0800 4586030.

ZARA - International Clairvoyant & Psychic - Sincere and Caring Advice! Immediate Telephone Consultations - Switch/Credit Cards Welcome! 01843 601700

LADIES

50, looks 40, feels 30! Slim attractive lady, young-at-heart, spontaneous, gsoh, n/s. Enjoys travelling, driving, sailing, cinema/theatre. Housewoman, lives & works in London. WLTM gentleman 45-60. Please write with photo to box 2903

52 years old, bubbly, kind & gentle, well spoken lady looking for solvent, cultured & old-fashioned gentleman, age unimportant. Please reply with recent photograph & telephone number. Box number 2824

AT a crossroads! Normal woman WLTM similarly "un-perfect", but civilised, man. Many interests & values. Country living (Warks). N/S. Early 50's. Letter & photo please. Box number 2817

ATTRACTIVE, successful, late 30's fair/green eyes, slim, fit, romantic, feminine & sincere lady with GSOH, Midlands based with children. Enjoys town or country life, eating in or out & life in general. My life is simply lacking a special man/soul mate with similar attributes. 5ft 10+, 35-50, to fulfil my otherwise perfect life. Photo please. Box 2739

ATTRACTIVE, fun loving professional woman, 34, 5'10" & slim, who is caring & loving with a GSOH. Enjoys playing sport, the outdoor life as well as quiet nights in. Seeks tall, attractive, fit man also with GSOH, n/s, for fun & long, loving relationship. Photo appreciated. Box 2872

ATTRACTIVE, petite professional, 34, VGSOH, everything but the boy, seeks witty, intelligent & articulate man, 32-40ish, who enjoys life & values integrity. Photo preferred. Box 2789

ATTRACTIVE gentlemen required for our quality ladies S West area Dovetail 01943 440499

BRAINS and beauty! 30 year old slim brunette graduate. Prof status WLTM prof intelligent successful male up to 49 years for fun and interesting times. North England. Box 2902

BRISTOL, Bath, Sth. Wales. For quality, local introductions call Chris at Elite 0117 973 6663

CAMBRIDGESHIRE/Norfolk Elite for quality local introductions Call Elite anytime 0800 003 444

CHARMING, confident & handsome gentleman, 32, having achieved great success in business, would now like to achieve success in finding a special person. So if you are attractive, humorous (23-32) & looking for fun & a possible relationship then please write or phone. Photo appreciated. Please respond to box number 2619

EDINBURGH/Glasgow Elite every day we introduce dozens of proactive guys to splendid ladies. Join us, our system works. 0131 620 7777/0141 236 7777

ELITE Notts/Leics/Lincs/Derbys. Attractive, successful, unattached? Quality local intros guaranteed at Elite. Call 0115 937 6104 (24 hrs)

FEISTY, successful, slim professional, 43, seeks intelligent, humorous male for companionship & more. Photo please. Glouc. Box 2786

GENTLEMEN are you lonely? Why not have a professional and beautiful Russian lady as a partner, all ages. Elite service, individual approach, good success rate, visa advice. Run by caring family. Tel/fax 01773 590683

GENUINE Thai ladies wishing to meet English gentlemen. Call Terry Willers on 01763 262134 and meet me for a cup of tea and a chat about the facts

GIRL 30's on the career elevator forgot to get off on the floor for romance. If you are a man with integrity, honesty & humour apply with photo. Box 2801

HEAD-TURNING slim, good looking blonde. London based. Enjoys socialising and nice home. Fashionable with sunny personality seeks genuine, successful attractive 35-50 man. Recent photo essential. Box 2814

I am 47, 5'6", 9stone, divorced. Visually I have everything, wonderful family, excellent business, marvellous home & terrific friends, yet secretly I'm the loneliest person I know & I need a male best friend, 47-57, GSOH & financially very secure. Essex/Suffolk. Box number 2877

I'M looking for a husband. Me stylish, stunning, slim, warm, feminine Jewish woman 50, offers long lasting, loving relationship to sincere, cultured, humorous, successful, established man, 50-65, with no ties who enjoys the finer things in life & ideally spends large parts of the year in a sunny climate. Letters preferred. Please respond to Box 2897

JAPANESE lady, late 30s, well educated, attractive, looking for gentleman over 35 for friendship maybe relationship. Please reply with your personal history or background to box 2882

LANCS/Cheshire/M'side Elite 100's of attractive successful ladies locally! 01254 245588

LINGUIST & Researcher, both attractive with Sense of fun, wish to be wooed away from their computers by 2 London-based dynamic men, aged 35-45. Letter & photo. Box number 2863

LIVING in Kent my client comes from a farming background. She is 5'5 tall and a delightfully honest, loyal, open, charming, well balanced, widowed and an attractive woman. Very independent, she misses the companionship/friendship that a close relationship offers within marriage. Ideally she would like to meet a non smoker who enjoys travel, gardening, sailing, golf, homelife, however it is more essential that he is solvent, a man who values family life and the company of someone who still has traditional values and an easy going nature, aged between 50-60 either from London or Home Counties. No charge for putting you in touch with my client who is entirely genuine and who does exist. Write in confidence to Heather Heber Percy, Country Register, Box 80, Hereford Sorting Office, Hereford or telephone 01432 342245 quoting the box number below or fax on 01432 370381 Box 2867

LONDON & country based successful lady, elegant, blond, n/s. Enjoys the arts, travel, all types of music, the glitzy events as well as home & family life. Loves children, animals & cooking. Searching for Mr. Right, any part of the world, age 55-70. Please reply to box number 2797

LONDON successful, attractive, intelligent, 40's, slim, feminine, desires older wealthy male. Box number 2856

LOVELY Lakeland lady - 5'6, 40 something, slim, long golden hair, blue expressive eyes, seeks lover & soul-mate. Likes mountains & the great outdoors, the arts, food & wine & the great indoors. If you are intelligent, over 5'10, fit, a toy-boy or older, able to be silly or serious & either live in the Lake District or love it enough to travel Please write to me Box 2811

PAIR of fun-loving, 30-something, successful & attractive lawyers seek a rendezvous with 2 professional males. Candidates must have A. a sense of humour; B. know how to show a girl a good time & C. be masters of wit, back chat & repartee. No geeks please. Box number 2835

NORTH EAST gentlemen! For intros to lots of stylish, attractive ladies, call Call Julia/Ian at Elite. Open 7 days 01670 505123

MY client is a remarkable woman of accomplishment, beauty, creativity, warmth, vision and soul possessing both a pragmatic mind and an extravagantly romantic heart. A widely admired author, she is also a very successful businesswoman who juggles the demands of her busy public persona and private life with grace and good humour. She is very savvy, glamorous, feminine and flirtatious, fair haired, petite with an authentic sense of style. She is divorced but family orientated, devoted, fun loving, sentimental and generous. She would love to meet a kindred spirit, who is well educated, adventurous, intelligent, successful and secure in his own sphere, who enjoys a varied lifestyle and desires a relationship often sought but seldom found: a passionate alliance of equals. Ideally he should be aged between 45-60 and commuting between this country and the States, as does my client. No charge for putting you in touch with my client who is entirely genuine and who does exist. Write in confidence to Heather Heber Percy, Country Register, Box 80, Hereford Sorting Office, Hereford or telephone 01432 342245 quoting the Box number below or fax on 01432 370381 Box 2869

NATURALLY pretty fair haired, blue eyed, slim, petite, outgoing, sense of fun, adventurous, privately educated and just 41 with no particular ties, is how I would describe my client and I believe this to be a true description. She would love to meet a man between the ages of 40-60 who is mature, reasonably successful, adventurous, enjoys country sports and perhaps share some of the following interests which include riding, hunting, shooting, fishing, bridge. Hopefully he likes animals and could be described as normal and well balanced. No charge for putting you in touch with my client who is entirely genuine and who does exist. Write in confidence to Heather Heber Percy, Country Register, Box 80, Hereford Sorting Office, Hereford or telephone 01432 342245 quoting the box number below or fax on 01432 370381 Box 2873

PRETEND it's spring not autumn & try new beginnings with delightful lady seeking discerning gentleman, 55+, rich in every aspect & available for travel et al. Reply to box number 2788

RUSSIAN/Ukrainian ladies seeking romance/marriage WAIA number 0181 447 0336 24 hrs

SEXY smart sweet pretty woman 45, for a kind solvent man who likes to be adventurous outdoors and romantic indoors and would like to share culture and fun with a stunning American/London lady who enjoys her work and her daughter. Please write with photo Box 2770

SMALL bundle of fun at a loose end, not looking forward to winter evenings with just my cat (he snores!). Can you help? Box number 2810

SMART & attractive European lady doctor, 30, seeks real, classy man of heart & brains to fall in love with. Box 2901

SPARKY, solvent, smoking, 50ish female, enjoys theatre, reading, music, good food & wine & lively debate. Seeks tallish male, similar disposition, 45-60. Photo appreciated. Box number 2834

SPECIAL, happy, slim, energetic, solvent lady seeks similar man 60ish to share fun, wine & sun in Provence. Loves music, countryside, walking dog & my log fire. Humorous SOH totally essential. Box number 2828

SUCCESSFUL female, tall, attractive, elegant, would like to share travel, adventure, sport and the arts with well educated solvent, n/s, tall prof male, 45-55. London based. Please write with photo. Box 2874

STRIKINGLY attractive, petite, widow, from public school background, loves to travel, and leads an international lifestyle. France is also a great favourite and skiing in America. She also plays bridge, enjoys the theatre and cinema, loves the sun and boating. My client would love to meet a soulmate who is also free to enjoy the good things in life, solvent and able to sustain a decent lifestyle. He would hopefully be over 5'8 tall aged between 55-68 from a public school background and well spoken. No charge for putting you in touch with my client who is entirely genuine and who does exist. Write in confidence to Heather Heber Percy, Country Register, Box 80, Hereford Sorting Office, Hereford or telephone 01432 342245 quoting the box number below or fax on 01432 370381 Box 2871

VERY attractive Asian female with GSOH well travelled, versatile, intrests is looking for sincere solvent professional/business man 38-45. Photo appreciated London/S.E. Box 2850

WANTED: 1/2 days per fortnight (due to busy schedule) - intelligent, sophisticated, tall, good looking professional - 35-46, preferred interests; skiing & languages, must have money. Box number 2880

WANTED- Friendly humorous man 40-60 who enjoys dinner parties, sport, theatre, travel. I'm 44, slim, attractive, professional, n/s mother of one. Oxon. Box number 2798

WIDOWED about three years ago, my client is an attractive woman looking much younger than her years, 5'6 tall with short fair hair, slim, lovely bone structure and a tanned skin. She is fit, energetic, thoroughly enjoys skiing, dancing, sailing, water skiing, scuba diving, dining out, sea, wildlife, sun, bridge, travel. Educated at public school she would like to meet someone with perhaps some similar interests with whom to share her life and from a similar social background. Living in either Devon, Dorset, Hampshire, West Sussex or the South West. Aged between 55-62. No one temperamental need apply. No charge for putting you in touch with my client who is entirely genuine and who does exist. Write in confidence to Heather Heber Percy, Country Register, Box 80, Hereford Sorting Office, Hereford or telephone 01432 342245 quoting the box number below or fax on 01432 370381 Box 2866

GENTLEMEN

3 young male doctors WLTM 3 female lawyers for fun evening. Will travel. Box number 2612

ACADEMIC, mid 40s, passionate about music, art, theatre, riding, style. Looking for a playmate. Interested? London/Norfolk. Box 2818

ACCOMPLISHED upper class mature assertive Englishman, presentable, wide interests. Seeks interesting unassertive female. Status less important than unorthodox attitude. Please respond to box number 2843

A IRAN gent (Irish origin), 35 years, 6ft tall, good looking & slim build. Professional job. Indulges in a lot of the good things in life. Seeks attractive lady (under 35 years) for friendship leading to romance. Please write, photo appreciated. Box 2806

BACHELOR (recycled) with some assets (wit, charm, 4 wheels, teeth) but also liabilities (bald, dominant) seeks LTR with short, slim, submissive damsel, 40/50, who can nurture the assets & tolerate the liabilities. London. Box number 2846

ATTRACTIVE successful man, 5'11", medium build, 46, has an interest in most things in life, now with lots of time to spare, seeks an attractive slim professional/ successful lady with a warm personality, 35+, to share good times with. Notts/Derby/Lincs. Photo appreciated. Please write to box number 2809

ATTRACTIVE ladies required for our quality gentlemen Sth West area Dovetail 01943 440499

BACHELOR 30s, slim, attractive, cultured, creative. I like ballet, BBC, Proms/skiing/travel/church on Sundays, I enjoy life & am great with bouncers/aunts & vicars. If you're cute/ stylish, 20s, 30s, let's talk! Photo appreciated. Box 2896

BLUE eyed German born 6'2 Midlands based (solvent not rich) mid 50s seeks attractive, tall, slimmish under 55 feminine lady, who enjoys life and thinks sharing is better who is also looking for a caring and faithful partner and friend who is able to give as well as receive and is not afraid of being spoilt. I WLTM you. Pls reply recent photo bx 2875

BRISTOL, Bath, Sth. Wales. For quality, local introductions call Chris to Elite 0117 973 6663

CAMBRIDGESHIRE/Norfolk: Elite for quality local introductions. Call Elite anytime 0800 003 444

CHARMING, confident, professional male, 36, 5'8", kind, sincere, considerate, witty & generally not in bad condition. WLTM intelligent, slim, affectionate, attractive n/s lady (30-40) looking for genuine commitment. A GSOH an advantage. Long-term aim to settle down with the right person. Photo & letter please. London, Surrey, Hants. Please reply Box 2815

CHARMING, successful professional, 43, good looking, 6', active, amusing, well healed, well travelled, enjoys first class lifestyle & many interests, seeks equally special lady, 30+, slim, attractive, stylish, bright, confident, choosy, with a warm heart & nice smile. Letter & photo appreciated. London/home counties. Box number 2822

DAVID - 6' tall, caring/secure, loves women/children. You may want/have children. Genuine. Will reply. Box number 2740

EDINBURGH Elite: Ladies required all ages to meet genuine gentlemen for lasting relationships. 0131 620 7777

EDINBURGH Elite: Ladies required all ages to meet genuine gentlemen for lasting relationships. 0131 620 7777

ELITE Notts/Leics/Lincs/Derbys. Attractive, successful, unattached? Quality local intros guaranteed at Elite. Call 0115 937 6104 (24 hrs)

EX-AVIATOR, 58, tall, slim, fit, good looking. London/Surrey based, who has lead exciting life, now wishes to settle with lady who is physically stimulating & mentally challenging (or vice versa) & enjoys travel, walking, dancing, the arts. Photograph appreciated. Box 2825

EXTROVERT & fit international lawyer (42) with well-travelled chopsticks, having recently returned from the Far East, WLTM reliable & attractive n/s lady (28-38) with interestingly coiled (& possibly exotic) rice bowl & GSOH for long-range adventures & full-contact dining. London, W. of England & West Midlands preferred. Photo appreciated. ALA with SAE. Box number 2868

GENUINE, considerate, good looking, 36, 6ft 1in, slim, GSOH. Enjoys cinema, theatre, tennis, visiting gym & travel. WLTM attractive, intelligent lady age 22-35 with a view to a possible relationship. London & the South East. Please write, preferably with a photo, to box number 2805

GLASGOW Elite accomplished ladies let us introduce you to genuine successful gentlemen 0141 236 7777

GOOD LOOKING, intelligent, educated professional of Greek origin, divorced, one child, own home, 36, 5'9". Enjoys sports, travelling, photography, cinema, dining out, reading. WLTM attractive lady for a long term relationship. London/Berks. Please reply with letter & photo to Box number 2898

HANDSOME professional male, 35, WLTM attractive, warm, bright lady, 24-35, with a friendly disposition & zest for life. South-West area. Photo appreciated. Box number 2847

INTERESTING 40's male, lover of the great outdoors, seeks attractive, like-minded spirit to share the good things in life. Respond to Box 2887

LANCS/Cheshire/M'side Elite 100's of successful & attractive men locally! 01254 245588

MY client is a fit, handsome, elegant looking divorcee. Well travelled, slim, 5'11 tall, a family man with daughters now leading independent lives, he is financially very secure and successful. Now retired in his early 70's, but looking and feeling younger, living in the Midlands and wanting to meet someone either in the Midlands or London. He is very keen on wildlife activity, country life, animals. More usual activities include wining, dining, theatre, music, sporting interests include swimming, and he thoroughly enjoys travel. His ideal partner would be someone who is in her early fifties, attractive, feminine, takes pride in her appearance, slim (max size 12), 5'6 - 5'7, who can cope with any occasion. In return she can look forward to being spoilt and sharing an active quality lifestyle with a loyal and trustworthy companion. No charge for putting you in touch with my client who is entirely genuine and who does exist. Write in confidence to Heather Heber Percy, Country Register, Box 80, Hereford Sorting Office, Hereford or telephone 01432 342245 quoting the box number below or fax on 01432 370381 Box 2874

MY client has the World at his feet. He is a widower in his 50s with an outstanding International career. He has a home in London as well as abroad and he is able to enjoy the best that life can offer. He is warm, intelligent and very good looking. But he isn't a loner - he needs someone to share the exciting possibilities and adventures that life offers him. She will be like him - relaxed, sexy, self reliant, outgoing and sporty with a loving soft centre. This is a wonderful opportunity for a truly remarkable lady whose personal presentation means that she probably works in the media. But you will need to know a great more so telephone me - Lesley Hudson Jessop - on 01225 482905. I am a professional matchmaker who has been retained by this prestigious client to help in his genuine search for a partner. You can talk to me in total confidentiality and there will be no financial charges to you now or in the future

NORTH EAST ladies! For intros to lots of successful attractive gentlemen, call Julia/Ian at Elite. Open 7 days 01670 505123

ONE special lady, adventurous enough to respond to a small ad (first time!) Will you discover that positive action can bring substantial reward? A graduate, through my own successful business, I enjoy a unique lifestyle. Of good character, I'm caring, easy going, with GSOH. Aged 35, I'm 5'11, very good looking, fit & healthy (n/s). You are 25-35, intelligent, 5'4 +, slim, (8-10), very attractive, sexy, enjoy sun, sport, the outdoors & seek an adventurous yet secure future, possibly overseas. Photo (returned) essential Bx 2895

PROFESSIONAL male 40 divorced. Fun & athletic. Enjoys hiking, good food, travelling & theatre. Seeks similar thinking female 30+. North West area. Box 2799

REFORMED workaholic now with time & means to enjoy the finer things in life. I am tall, dark & goodlooking, eclectic interests include sport, the arts, foreign travel & community work. Jewish man (45) seeking unforgettable woman for long term relationship. London. Please write with photo to Box number 2883

SCALE new heights. 27 year old guy WLTM a female climber (20-35) for days out on the crag, companionship and possibly more. Go take the plunge and reply today. Please respond to box number 2793

SERIOUSLY nice country gent, good-looking, athletic, well-educated, amusing, unpretentious, 45 (looks 35, feels 25, sometimes acts 15), who enjoys tennis, skiing, life, seeks smiling shapely sporty lady. Deepest Essex. Photo appreciated. Box 2864

SHIP-WRECKED submariner - Tall, adolescent Naval Officer (37), London based & single, seeks attractive & intelligent (NS) professional lady, 30 to 40, with VGSOH. I love all the good things in life especially to eat, drink & be merry with that someone special. Be reckless & give me a try. ALA. Photo appreciated. Box 2886

SLIM, stylish lady 67, London, WLTM special n/s gent, share life - travel, music, your castle/mine. Be optimistic. Bx 2829

SPECIAL needs teacher (primary)/ Artist WLTM attractive sensitive caring female. 20-33 for lasting relationship. Photo appreciated. London/South East. Reply Box 2890

STYLISH attractive, 60s, n/s, London male with no ties and a fine lifestyle. Preparing for the Millennium preferably with a younger lady counterpart. Photo and phone number appreciated. Box 2831

SUCCESSFUL director, 36, 6', slim, VGSOH. Varied interests. WLTM younger, very slim, attractive female to enjoy the good things in life with. London/Surrey. Please respond to box number 2844

TALL romantic Birmingham gent 49 is searching for a kind, loving & affectionate lady social ballroom dance partner for everlasting friendship. Maybe more. Letters only please. Please respond to box number 2837

UNPRETENTIOUS 6', slim, fit, happy, caring Essex business man (48) WLTM slim, attractive lady for friendship, marriage & children. Photo please. Respond to box 2884

CREATIVE professional man, successful Oxbridge graduate (38), no ties, active & energetic, interests include classical music, travel, theatre, arts generally, socialising, gardening, sport and keeping fit. Busy lifestyle, but now reformed workaholic. Would like to meet articulate and intelligent warm-hearted professional/academic woman for caring relationship and marriage if compatible; preferably willing to consider starting to extending a family. Photo appreciated and returned. London and south-east area. Box number 2666

GAY male, 48, tall, trim, masculine, caring, romantic, seeks unattached, affectionate & dignified gentleman over 65 for permanent relationship. Anywhere. Please write with photo to box number 2772

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:
BOX NUMBER...
C/O THE TIMES NEWSPAPERS LTD
P.O. BOX 3553
VIRGINNIA STREET
LONDON
E1 9BL

THE ULTIMATE BALL
For Single Men and Women
Saturday 26th September
Our Parties are famous for Fine food, flowing wine, fabulous music and fun people. If you are 20-45, attractive and successful you should be there!
Circles
The Social Events Company For Single People
Tel: 0181 426 9168

COUNTRY PARTNERS
COUNTY REGISTER
Well respected Bureaux for discerning people from both TOWN and COUNTRY
Age range 27 - 80
Interviews in London or within your own County.
Tel HEATHER HEBER PERCY on 01432 342204/342245
Fax 01432 370381
ABIA EST 15 YRS

Dateline
"The U.K.'s largest agency..." The Independent
For free details in absolute confidence: Dept N. Dateline, 23 Abingdon Rd, London W8 6AL
01869 324 100

New London Office Lower Grosvenor Place London SW1
Sara Eden
PERSONAL INTRODUCTIONS
"A stunning success rate... Countless long term relationships" MAIL ON SUNDAY
You won't believe the type of people we attract - why not come along and see for yourself, there's no obligation and we could change your life forever!
Windsor: 01753 830350 London: 0171 499 9626
Eden House - 38 Thames Street - Windsor - SL4 1PR

VIRGINIA CHARLES
The professional matchmaking service for people of quality and integrity
London Office: 10 Stratton Street, Mayfair London W1X 5FD Telephone: 0171 546 8649
Country Office: The Old Brewery, Burford Oxfordshire OX18 4SG Telephone: 01 993 824 500
http://www.virginiacharles.com

DOCTORS • ARCHITECTS • BANKERS • ACCOUNTANTS
drawing down the moon
PERSONAL INTRODUCTION CONSULTANTS - THE FIRST AND FINEST
"a partner for life...that's where Drawing Down the Moon comes in" FINANCIAL TIMES
0171-937 6263
Head Office: Adam & Eve Mews, Kensington
City Office: Cannon Street
24 hours. Member ABIA. Est.1984
COMPANY DIRECTORS • LAWYERS • MEDIA
ADVERTISING • WRITERS • MARKETING
STOCKBROKERS • EDUCATIONALISTS

1a Village Square, Brighton Marina
The EXECUTIVE Club at BRIGHTON Marina
For Introductions in Sussex
01273 818100

dovetail
• introductions by your personal consultant
• professional business members only
• realistic fees - no annual renewals!
"The most caring consultancy in the UK"... International Journalist
offices in London. Surrey. Sussex Berkshire. Avon/Somerset
0171 483 3377

HOUSEPARTIES
Join our informal gatherings of 60-100 single, sociable thirty somethings at Saturday night parties held each week in private residences throughout the South and Midlands. Half Price for first 200 members joining! 01926 313622 for 'Early Bird' package

Life is more colourful with Club Sirius

0800 542 6000
Call for your free Information Pack
8.30am to 10.30pm 7 days a week
SIRIUS
CREATING PEOPLE CHEMISTRY

FINDING THE RIGHT CHEMISTRY
At the Cavendish Partnership we place as much store in establishing a chemistry with our clients as we do in arranging introductions with professional consideration and personal service.
WEST MIDLANDS & SOUTH WEST
THE CAVENDISH PARTNERSHIP
0800 3289387

10 CHARLES II STREET, ST JAMES'S LONDON SW1
The EXECUTIVE Club
Since 1985 people of quality have been introduced through our exclusive social events and superb introduction service. We invite membership to complement almost certainly the finest selection of unattached professionals in the UK.
• Personal introductions • Social events
0171 499 8833
WHY E.C.? Quite simply, it's because members of the Executive Club of St James's have a near unlimited choice of high quality members. We guarantee you the choice from AT LEAST 25 matched ACTIVE members in three months or REFUND YOUR FEE. (Others may offer to extend your membership period even if you have only had one date in a year). You are a member for life. Try us for six weeks and if YOU don't agree we are the finest service there is, we'll refund your fee towards any other dating service in the world - such is the quality of our service; and a wide choice of high quality social events each month.
E.C. THE BEST THERE IS - OR YOUR FEE REFUNDED
Brighton, Bristol, Exeter, London - Pall Mall, Edgware and throughout the UK.

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE?
Despair of ever meeting intelligent people. Midlands/E Anglia? They are around, most belong to RSVP! Hosted social events & personal introductions. For free interview Call
RSVP
Gaynor 01604 585999
Linda 0121 777 7688

Meeting that Special Someone
Rainbow Introductions Ltd.
Traditional Matchmakers for London & Home Counties
For FREE information 0800 ...

ASSIGNATIONS
Lesley Hudson-Jessop
(ex Professional Headhunter)
Room interviews and professional skills lead to tailor made introductions
LONDON AND M4 CORRIDOR
01225 482905

StarDate
After analysing thousands of real life couples, StarDate can now accurately predict the outcome of a relationship simply using the dates of birth of the people involved.
When you give us your unique birth date we check against the 1000's of callers who use StarDate and suggest which you are more likely to have a successful relationship with.
Improve your chances of finding the right partner with StarDate.
Join StarDate for free today.
0800 3767 333

Here's to Katharine Allen!

You'd be amazed how many toasts are drunk to:
Katharine Allen Marriage Bureau
18 Thayer Street London W1M 5LD
0171 935 3115
E-mail KA@btinternet.com
KA

THE TIMES cannot guarantee that respondents will receive a reply when answering advertisements on this page, although we hope that as a matter of courtesy they will. When making contact with people for the first time it is advisable to meet in a public place and let a member of your family or a trusted friend know where you will be. We would advise readers and advertisers to exercise caution when giving out personal details. This will be respected by genuine respondents.

EXECUTIVE Club PARTIES

The BLUE ELEPHANT
Transport yourself back to Thailand at this most authentic Thai restaurant. It's reputation is well justified. Superb cuisine, attentive service and an ambience unmatched this side of the Pacific. You will be spoilt with their famous 'Thai Banquet' taken with unlimited wine. Cost £59.

LANGHAM SUMMER BALL
Join us in the splendour of the exquisite ballroom of The Langham Hilton, for a "black tie summer ball". Cost £59 to include cocktail reception, four course dinner, coffee and unlimited wine.

ROYAL GARDEN HOTEL (0171 937 8000)
We have booked the entire 10th floor restaurant for 80 guests. Their restaurant has an outstanding vista overlooking Kensington Gardens, Hyde Park and the "twinkling" City Landscape of the West End. We are happy to recommend this restaurant as the best available in Kensington. We start at 7.45 with a Champagne reception for dinner at 8.30pm. The cost includes a superb three course dinner, coffee and a full bottle of wine. Cost £61

THE LANESBOROUGH
We have been pestered by our members to hold an event here as many consider it the finest hotel in London. Join us for a dinner dance in the conservatory restaurant. The cost includes a cocktail reception, three course dinner, coffee, sparkling water and a full bottle of wine. Members £72.

SAVOY
Join us at The Savoy Hotel for a dinner dance. The Savoy quite rightly has a unique reputation as one of the worlds finest hotels. We are taking tables in the Thames Foyer for "Stompin at The Savoy". Our evening starts with a reception drink prior to taking our tables for a three course dinner, coffee sparkling water and a full bottle of wine. Then it's dancing until 1.00am to a five band. Cost £65.

WINDOWS - PARK LANE HILTON
The view from the 28th floor of the Park Lane Hilton is spectacular and must rate as one of the worlds finest city landscapes.
A VIP event restricted to gentlemen earning in excess of £100k.

ELEPHANT on the RIVER
Located on the river bank at Pimlico with views over The Thames this restaurant is renowned for their warm friendly atmosphere and Cuisine. Join us for a candlelit dinner dance. Cost £56 to include Champagne reception, three course dinner, coffee and unlimited wine.

ASCOT - HENLEY - WIMBLEDON - INTERNATIONAL & SPORTING EVENTS
Social membership £50 - 3 months, £125 - two years

HOLIDAYS

CRUISE - MAJORCA
We have chartered a Mote-Fino 84ft luxury motor yacht one of the most stylish and modern in the southern Mediterranean. Step into a world of total luxury pampered by a full time captain and host. The vessel has 4 queen size en suite cabins panelled in teak and soft furnishings to the highest standards. Powered by twin 735HP engines and equipment includes a jet ski, sub aqua equipment etc. Join our Owners Private party for a four day cruise around Majorca. Cost £650 plus travel.

CRUISE - TURKEY
Join 'singles' schooner cruises throughout the summer along the Southern Turkish cost, using one of the finest and most spacious boats available. Clear seas, stunning scenery with an abundance of historical sites, superb food and more sun than you can cope with. You laze in solitude at one end of the boat or join a group at the other. Walk on uninhabited islands, through citrus orchards or unspoilt fishing villages. The ultimate in relaxing holidays.

Telephone 01323 490280

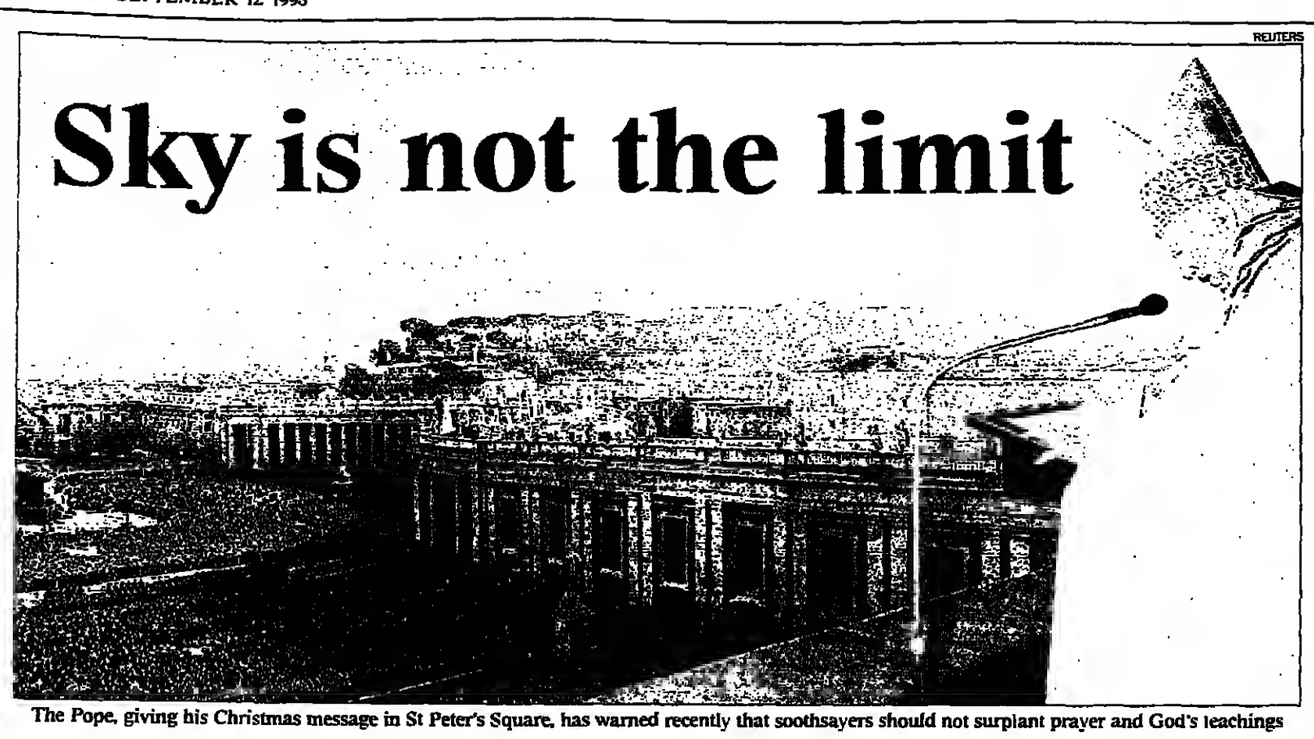
THE TIMES — THE SUNDAY TIMES

WANT A DATE? RING THE TIMES
0171 481 4

هكذا من الأصل

Sky is not the limit

REUTERS



The Pope, giving his Christmas message in St Peter's Square, has warned recently that soothsayers should not surplant prayer and God's teachings

The Pope's thirteenth encyclical, expected next week, is a fierce attack on astrology and New Age spirituality, writes **Richard Owen**

To many people, the Pope's assault this week on astrologers and fortune tellers came out of a clear blue sky — except, presumably, to the stargazers themselves, who must have seen it coming.

But John Paul II's musings during Angelus prayers were not by chance. They were a rare public insight into his thought process as he puts the final touches to a new encyclical on "false ideologies" and, in particular, New Age philosophies and sects.

The Pope has spent long hours pondering the encyclical, the thirteenth of his reign. The 150-page document, "Faith and Reason", reviews Western thought from Plato through St Augustine to Marxism. The Pope, who as a young man in Poland, lectured on ethics and the history of thought at the Catholic University of Lublin, has no quarrel with philosophy, according to those who have seen the draft — provided it is "intellectually rigorous" rather than "vague, eclectic and muddled", a criticism aimed, above all, at New Age notions of spirituality.

The Pope intends his new encyclical to be a fearsome weapon against "false prophets and peddlers of dreams". Publication — initially promised for last Whitsun, and then October — is expected next week. The Pope has long been alarmed by the appeal to the young of mysticism. On a visit to Maribor, Slovenia, in May 1996 he inveighed against "superstition, magic and the occult, which appear to offer an immediate and simple solution to life's problems but are in fact illusory".

Now his wrath has descended on soothsayers and clairvoyants, who are particularly numerous in Italy. "Do not put your faith in stars," the pontiff told pilgrims sternly at Castelgandolfo. "Put your faith in prayer."

It is inconvenient that the Bible (particularly the Old Testament) is packed with astrologers. In early Christian times, those who claimed supernatural powers through "divination" were held to be "in special accord with God". The prophet Daniel is blessed with "night visions" which enable him to interpret the dreams of the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar. And Matthew's Gospel opens with the Magi, astrologers from Persia, following the Star to Bethlehem.

But since the days of the Holy Inquisition, the Church has engaged in a struggle against "sorcery". For modern Christians, the nub of the problem is more philosophical: foretelling the future from the planets might appear harmless, but amounts to a form of determinism. If our future is laid down and can be divined, why believe in a God who gives us free will and hence the power to choose between good and evil?

The Pope's riposte is that there is indeed a pattern to our lives — but that to discern it we have to read not horoscopes but "the signs that God puts in our everyday lives".

Monsignor Corrado Balducci, a Vatican demonologist, suggests cautiously that the reading of horoscopes does not in itself constitute "the work of the Devil". But the Devil can use astrology "to tempt us away from faith and induce us to turn to charlatans". St Paul warned early Christians against "witchcraft and divination", and in the Book of Proverbs Solomon advises readers not to look into the future, "for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth".

And there is a broader issue — the Vatican's fear that some Roman Catholic thinkers are trying to incorporate elements of other religions into Christianity. In the Pope's view, and that of his chief guardian of the faith, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (the successor to the Inquisition), this can only weaken Catholicism.

Last month Cardinal Ratzinger, who has unhesitatingly excommunicated dissident theologians and other "heretics" during the Pope's 20-year reign, ordered bishops round the world to forbid the sale of books by Father Anthony De Mello, an Indian Jesuit who became a New Age guru before his death in 1987. De Mello's books on meditation and spirituality lean heavily towards Zen and Yoga, making them "gravely harmful and incompatible with the Catholic faith", as Cardinal Ratzinger put it.

Father Tissa Balasuriya, 72

Liberal Catholics were dismayed when the pontiff declared that anyone who failed to give "firm and definitive assent" to accepted "truths" was "no longer in full communion with the Catholic Church".

New Age sects, seen from this perspective, are a pernicious challenge to Christian values. The De Mello case was preceded by the excommunicaoun of Father Tissa Balasuriya, a Sri Lankan priest who had questioned doctrine but had also — perhaps more dangerously — tried to reconcile Christianity with Buddhism and Hinduism.

For some Catholics, the papal assault suggests a lack of confidence in the power of Christian teachings, and an assumption that the East is more seductive. "It can work the other way round," one young Italian said. "People like De Mello can interest young people in spiritual matters and draw them into Christianity through Eastern mysticism. After all, De Mello was a Jesuit." But Vatican officials will have none of it. "Inter-faith dialogue is one thing, but Catholic priests in Asia playing the sitar or sitting cross-legged in saffron robes before a shrine to the Virgin Mary is quite another," one official said.

Homophobia is wrong, and the church knows it

Credo

NIGEL McCULLOCH

The parents of an adult son who is gay have written to me pleading for greater warmth and less hostility from the Christian church towards homosexuals.

I have received several such letters since the Lambeth Conference, some from Christians in a same-sex relationship who are fearful about what they perceive to be a newly intolerant and fundamentalist attitude towards homosexuals. For many, this was highlighted by the unedifying spectacle of an African bishop forcibly trying to exorcise a gay man.

The question frequently asked in these letters is simply: where do we go from here? The answer is more complicated, not least because of the different historical experiences and cultural contexts in which the Christian church is set around the world. For example, the Ugandan church reveres its martyrs who, only a few generations ago, sacrificed their lives rather than give in to the sexual advances of their homosexual king. In some Islamic states the minority Christian church could face further persecution if it appeared to approve of homosexuality.

Furthermore, the behaviour of militant groups such as OutRage! has done much harm to the homosexual cause. People of all faiths were appalled by protestors interrupting the Archbishop of Canterbury's Easter sermon.

The Archbishop rightly encouraged his fellow bishops at the Lambeth Conference to reaffirm the teaching of Holy Scripture and Christian tradition: that human sexuality is intended by God to find its rightful and full expressioo in a life-long, monogamous commitment between a man and a woman in the covenant of marriage, instituted by God and blessed by Jesus Christ.

This does not mark a newly intolerant or fundamentalist approach from the Church. It is traditional Christian teaching based on a theme that permeates the Old and New Testaments: that men and womeo were made for each other.

Of course, there are many who fall short of Christian norms. As one of my correspondents put it: "We are all sinners in need of God's forgiveness." Some of the worst sins have nothing to do with sex. And even when sexual expression is contrary to the Christian way, it is often heterosexuals who are the worst offenders. With unnerving hypocrisy we cloak the prurience of our sex-obsessed society with a dishonest puritanism that unfairly discriminates against homosexuals.

It has been a pastoral step forward, therefore, that for the first time the Lambeth Conference has explicitly condemned homophobia and recognised the many members of the Church who are homosexual. "We wish to assure them that they are loved by God, and that all baptised, believing and faithful persons, regardless of sexual orientation, are full members of the Body of Christ."

A recent examination of the theological principles affecting the homosexual debate (the St Andrew's Day Statement) noted that our sexual affections can no more define who we are than can our class, race or nationality. "At the deepest ontological level, therefore, there is no such thing as a homosexual or a heterosexual. There are human beings, male and female, called to redeem humanity in Christ, endowed with a complex variety of emotional potentialities and threatened by a complex variety of forms of alienation."

The Lambeth conference recognised these complexities; and, by reaffirming so clearly its theological position, has enabled many bishops to feel more secure about engaging in exploration and dialogue. The Church now has a fresh opportunityto demonstrate greater warmth and understanding by matching its theological firmness with pastoral sensitivity. The Archbishop has insisted that the church is committed to listening and learning. The challenge now for every congregation is to follow his lead.

● *Nigel McCulloch is Bishop of Wakefield*

A place for everyone

Noam Friedlander finds a synagogue with an all-embracing style

THERE IS something stirring about a Jewish Orthodox service. If you close your eyes and listen to the chanted Hebrew by the *chazan* (cantor) and congregation you are transported back to how you imagine prewar European Jewish communities to have been.

At the New North London Synagogue, the service in the main sanctuary is traditional — mostly following prayers from the Ashkenazi or western and central European Jewish tradition. The men and women sit apart and the liturgy is long, entirely in Hebrew and the pages of the *siddur* (prayer book) are turned so quickly it is hard to keep pace.

Outside, the surrounding buildings reflect different factions of the Jewish community: the RSGB (Jewish Reform movement) has offices here and the Leo Baeck College — the training centre for reform rabbis — sits alongside the Sternberg Centre, the largest Jewish community centre in Europe with strong interfaith connections. There is also a museum and a day school.

This synagogue, founded in 1974, mainly follows the Masorti branch of Judaism, a practice that accepts the findings of science and seeks to use them to enhance Judaic biblical understanding. What makes this congregation special is how it illustrates the evolving modern Judaic tradition.

On Saturday mornings, the main sanctuary is not the only place holding a service. Elsewhere, men and women aged between 20 and 30 sit together following a near-identical service, and on some weeks there is a women-only service.

"This congregation is made of different entities," says Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg, "and other services do not follow the same pattern: there are many parallel ways to follow and we have room for all of them."

The constant stream of Hebrew heard in the service can be difficult and frustrating for children: as a result, there are relaxed services for toddlers, children and teenagers.

The children's service takes place during the Rabbi's sermon. This is a shame because the children are missing out: Rabbi Winenberg is a stirring speaker.

Preaching passionately from the pulpit, the rabbi discusses the need "not to judge others" and to examine one's own faults in preparation for the coming ten days of penitence, which come between the Jewish New Year and culminate on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, on September 30. Coming from a leader of a congregation which appears to have a place for everyone, he certainly practises what he preaches.

The New North London Synagogue, Finchley, London (0181-346 8500).

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ *A five-star guide* ★

PASTOR: Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg

SETTING: White walls, discreet windows

★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Warmth and comfort

★★★

LITURGY: Standard Orthodox Sabbath liturgy

★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Couldn't stop eating. The Kiddush had it all from Florentines to fish balls

★★★★★

MUSIC: Chants and songs

★★★★

Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg with his family

Church services tomorrow

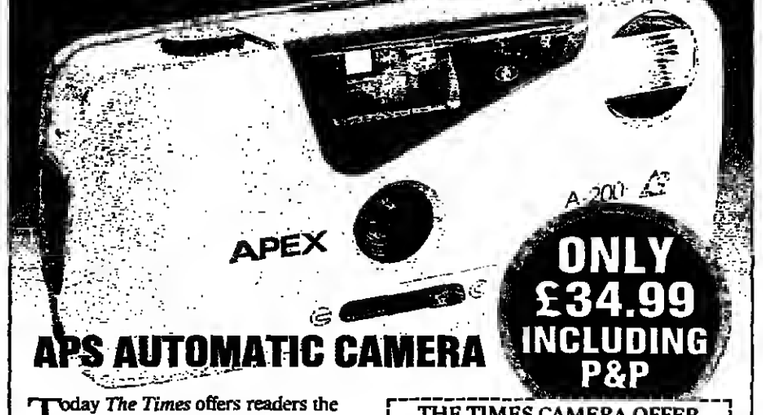
Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 M, *Sing we merrily unto God (Batten)*; 3.15 E, Stanford in C, Very Rev Dr M Stewart.
BANGOR CATHEORAL: 8 HC; 9.45 Boreol Weddi; 11 Ch M, Ireland in F; 3.15 Ch E; 5 Cymun Bendigaid.
BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch, Collegium regale (Howells), Hear my prayer (Purcell); 3.30 Ch E.
BIRMINGHAM CATHEORAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Ave verum corpus (Byrd), Darke in F; 4 Ch E for Holy Cross Day, Responses (Smith).
BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Ch M, A: For the beauty of the earth (Rutter); 10.30 Euch, Jackson in G, Canon P Ballard; 4 Ch E, Bishop of Carlisle.
BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8, 11 Euch, St Stephen's mass (Ireland), Venerable A E Pierce; 3.30 E, Walmisley in O minor.
BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch, Sancti Johannes de Deo (Haydn), Ave verum (Byrd); 3.30 Ch E, Wood in F.
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch, Mozart in C, Rev P G C Brett; 3.15 E, Stanford in A, Responses (Walsh); 6.30 Compline.
CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, D sacrum convivium (Victoria) Toccata in E (Bach); 3 E, Rose in C minor, How lovely are thy dwellings (Brahams).
CHELMSFORD CATHEORAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Father O Manson; 11.15 S Euch, Darke in E; 6 Ch E, Wood in E flat.
CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Euch, Mass for all saints (Aston), Canon T Dennis; 11.30 M, Rutter in C, Responses (Sanders); 3.30 E, Factus est silentium (Dering); 6.30 ES, Canon T Dennis.
CHICHESTER CATHEORAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Ireland in C, Almighty God who hast me brought (Ford); 11 S Euch, Sumsion in F; 3.30 E, Walmisley in D minor.
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 11 S Euch, Mozart in C; 3.30 Ordination to the Priesthood.
COVENTRY CATHEORAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, Come unto me (Jeffcoat); 5 Ch E, Second service (Leighton).
DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch, Venerable I Garford; 6 Festal E, Gray in F minor, Rev B Gauge.
DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Britten in C, Canon D Whittington; 12.55 DLI annual reunion service; 3.30 E, Noble in E minor, Rev G Miller.
ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, O taste and see (Vaughan Williams), Missa Eliensis (Willis), Canon J Inge; 3.45 E.
EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Ireland in C, Prebendary F Coles; 11.15 M, Smart in F, A: O taste and see (Goss), Rev A Mawson; 3 E; 6.30 ES.
GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: S HC; 10.15 Euch, Missa brevis (Berkeley); 12.15 HC; 3 E, Aston in F, A: Like as the hart (Howells).
GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Darke in E, Ubi caritas (Duruflé), Canon J Schofield; 11.30 M, Stanford in C, Rev Sir J Alleyne; 6.30 E, Harwood in A flat.
HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Oarke in F; 11.30 M, Ireland in F, Beati quorum via (Stanford); 3.30 E, Murrill in E, Prebendary O Roberts.
LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch, Johannesburg service (Bertalot); 4 Ch E, Rev K Leech.
LICHFIELD CATHEORAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Darke in F, Pater noster (Stravinsky); 3.30 E, Stanford in B flat.
LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Schubert in G, Ave verum corpus (Mozart); 11.15 M, Stanford in B flat; 12.30 HC; 3.45 E, Kelly in C, Responses (Smith), Canon Dr J Newton.
LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Canon M Boyling; 3 Battle of Britain service, Venerable B H Lucas; 4 HC.
LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 8, 9 HC; 11 S Euch, Darke in A minor; 12.15 HC; 3.30 E, Noble in B minor; 6.30 E.
MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 M; 9 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Schubert in G, Canon J Atherton; 6.30 EP.
NORWICH CATHEORAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.15 Family C; 10.30 S Euch, Jesu the very thought of thee (Bairstow), Archdeacon of Norwich; 3.30 E, Collegium regale (Howells); 6.30 Service of healing.
PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M, Noble in B minor; 10.30 Euch, Darke in F; 3.30 E, Sumsion in G.
PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Mass of St Thomas (Thorne); 11 S Euch, Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow), Darke in F; 6 E, Dyson in O.
RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8, 9.30 Euch, O quam gloriosum (Victoria), Rev D McCoulough; 11.30 M, Collegium regale (Howells); 12.30 Euch; 5.30 E, Jackson in D; 8 Concert.
ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Darke in F, Canon M Shields; 11.15 Royal Engineers memorial service; 3.15 E, Chichester service (Walton); 6.30 Diocesan *Evangelists'* commissioning service.
SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Schubert in G, Tantum ergo (De Severac), Rev A Philip; 11.30 M, Responses (Clucas), Canon D Slater; 3 Ch E, Dyson in D.
SHEFFIELD CATHEORAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch; 6.30 Festal E.
SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Ch Euch, Missa sancti Leopoldi (Haydn), A: Ecce sacerdos magnus (Bruckner); 3 EP.
SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 L; 8 HC; 9.30 C; 11 S Euch, Schubert in G; 3.15 E, A: Heavens declare the glory of God (Boyce).
TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, Schubert in G; 6 E, Responses (Radcliffe); Murrill in E, Canon M Warner.
WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 C, Rev R Jenkins; 11 Sol Euch, We praise thee O God (Purcell), Rev R Jenkins; 6.30 E.
WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina); 11.30 M, Britten in C; 3 E, Darke in F, Vicar of Nailsea.
WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.15 S Euch, Mozart in F; 3 E; 5.45 Organ recital: Martin Baker; 6.30 ES.
WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9 Mass; 10.30 Sol Mass; 2.45 Organ recital; 3.30 Sol V & B, Magnificat quarti toni (Bevan); 5.30, 7 Mass.
WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Vaughan Williams in G, Rev Professor J Barton; 11.15 S Euch, Messe solennelle (Vierne); 3.30 E, St John's service (Howells), *Canon C Stewart; 7.30 Concert.*
YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Mass in five parts (Byrd), Canon Professor E Norman; 11.30 M, Noble in B minor; 4 E, Ireland in F, Canon R Metcalfe.
ST ALBAN'S CATHEDRAL, Hertfordshire: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11 Sol Euch, Stanford in C & F; 6.30 E, Blair in B minor.
ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL, Aberdeen: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch, Darke in E; 6.30 Ch E, Gloucester service (Howells).
ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Denbighshire: 8 HC; 11 Ch M, A: Let thy merciful ears (Mudd), Very Rev K Goulstone; 3.30 EP.
ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEORAL: 8 HC; 10 S Euch, Harris in F; 11.30 Ch C, Darke in F, Ave verum (Elgar); 3.30 Ch E, Responses (Byrd), Stanford in C.
ST FIN BARRE'S CATHEDRAL, Cork: 8 Euch; 11.15 Ch Euch, Wiltshire service (Shepherd), Canon G A Salter; 7 Ch E.
ST GEORGE'S CATHEORAL, SEI: 8, 10 LM; 11.30 Sol Mass; Haydn in G; 6 LM.
ST GILES' CATHEORAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 HC, Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria); 11.30 MS, Rev Dr R Mackenzie; 6 St Giles at Six; 8 ES, Rev I K Stiven.
ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11, 6 Rev R Frazer.
ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch; 3.30 EP.
ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 8.30 Euch; 11.15 S Euch, Missa sancti Johannis de Deo (Haydn), Rev A Graham; 3.15 Ch E, Wood in F, Rev P Campion.
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, EC4: 8 HC; 10.15 M, Boyce in C, Rev G Giles; 11.30 S Euch; 3.15 E, Brewer in D, Canon M Saward; 5 Organ recital: Paul Ayres; 6 ES.
ST WOOLOS CATHEDRAL, Newport: 10.30 M, Stanford in B flat; 6.30 E.
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, *SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy. Kievan and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony.*
ALL SAINTS, W1: 8 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Missa sancti Maria Magdalenae (Webber), Rev I Davies; 6 E & B.
ALL SOULS, W1: 9.30, 11.30 MP, Rev R Trist; 6.30 EP, Rev J Cook.
THE ASSUMPTION, W1: 11 Mass for four voices (Tallis).
CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 M; 12.15 HC; 6 E.
CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, WC2: 11.15, Rev Dr D B Sparks; 6.30.
FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30 LM; 11 HM, Mozart in C; 12.30 LM; 4.15 Mass; 6.15 LM.
HOLY TRINITY, Sloane Street: 8.45 Euch; 11 Sol Euch, Ireland in C, Rev R Parker.
ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH W8: Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.
HOLY TRINITY, Brompton: 9 HC; 11 MS; 5, 7.30 Informal service, Mr J Jennings.
THE ORATORY: 7, 8, 9, 10 11 Mass, Missa prudentiles virgines (Lobo); 12.30 Mass 3.30 V & B, Adoramus te Christe (Nanini); 4.30, 7 Mass.
ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA, SW3: 11 M, Look down O Lord (Curror), A: In exitu Israel (Wesley), Rev T Hiney.
WESLEY'S CHAPEL, EC2: 9.45 HC, Rev Dr G E Barrin; 11 MS, Andrea McInnes.
WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist): 11 MP, Rev P Graves; 6.30 EP.
ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Ch Euch.
ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, EC1: 9 HC; 11 M, O harken thou (Elgar); 6.30 Ch Euch, Missa reges terrae (Manchicourt).
ST BRIDE'S, EC4: 11 Ch Euch, Harwood in A flat, Nolo mortem peccatoris (Morley), Guild Chaplain Canon B Christianson; 6.30 Ch E, Noble in B minor.
ST CLEMENT DANES, WC2: 11 Ch M, Humfrey in E minor, Rev O Mackenzie; 12.30 HC.
ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, SW1: 11, Rev A Cairns; 6.30.
ST ETHELDREDA'S, EC1: 11 S Mass, Mass in D (Kitson), Ave verum (Byrd).
ST GEORGE'S CHURCH: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Short service (Batten).
ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch, Rector John Paul.
ST JAMES'S CHURCH, W2: 10.30 S Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina); 6 EP.
ST JAMES'S CHURCH, W1: 9.15 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev M Robins; 5.45 EP.
ST JOHN'S, E15: 11 MP; 6.30 HC.
ST LUKE'S, SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch.
ST MARK'S, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch, Darke in F, Rev R McLaren.
ST MARGARET'S, SW1: 11 S Euch.
ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch; 11.30 Visitors service; 2.45 Chinese service; 5 Ch E; 6.30 ES.
ST MARY'S, SW1: 9, 10 LM; 11 HM, Missa brevis (Jackson Hill); 6 Sol E; 7 LM.
ST MARYLEBONE, NW1: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Rev J Caldwell.
ST PAUL'S, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Sol Euch, The Lord is my shepherd (Schubert).
ST PETER'S, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Father D B Tillyer.
CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M, Rev P R C Abram.
ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, SE10: 11 S Euch, Darke in A minor.

☐ *Compiled by Deborah King*

EXCLUSIVE OFFER

SAVE £15 ON



ONLY £34.99 INCLUDING P&P

APS AUTOMATIC CAMERA

Today *The Times* offers readers the chance to buy an Apex A-200 Advanced Photo System (APS) automatic camera for only £34.99, a saving of £15 on the normal price of £49.99.

The APS has auto focus, flash, and film advance and rewind, a unique lens for crystal-clear images, drop-in film loading, red-eye reduction and a function to select between three different picture formats.

It comes with Kodak Advantix film, two AAA batteries, carrying pouch, instruction booklet and a 12-month guarantee.

APS is the latest in photo technology and this Apex camera is made by one of the world's largest camera suppliers.

To order call the credit card order line or fill in the coupon and send with your remittance.

THE TIMES CAMERA OFFER

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss .....
Address .....
..... Postcode .....

DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	PRICE
APS camera package		£34.99
	Total	

I enclose cheque/postal order(s) (pound sterling only) payable to: *The Times* APS camera offer FT781. Prices include postage and packing.
Value ..... No .....
Please write name and address on back of all cheques
Or debit my Mastercard/ Visa card no
☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
Print Name ..... Exp. Date .....
Signature ..... Date .....
Send coupon and remittance to: *The Times* APS camera offer FT781, Dept TM001, PO Box 121, Thrapston, Northants, NN14 4ZD
Allow 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. The offer is subject to availability and for UK and Eire residents only. No claims for loss in transit can be made after 60 days. *The Times* cannot be responsible for returned goods lost in transit. The offer is subject to availability. Return within seven days for a full refund.
Please tick box if you do not wish to receive further details from *The Times* or companies approved by us. ☐

Credit card order-line Mon-Fri 9am-5pm 01832 733497

CHANGING TIMES

HOTELS CAR HIRE TRAVEL INSURANCE TOURS CRUISES WORLDWIDE TAILORMADE

TRAILFINDERS

CURRENT BEST BUYS ON THE WORLD'S FINEST AIRLINES

INCLUDES ALL PRE-PAID TAXES	ONE WAY FROM	RETURN FROM		ONE WAY FROM**	RETURN FROM**		ONE WAY FROM	RETURN FROM
SYDNEY	£291	£471	NEW YORK	£135	£216	CARIBBEAN	£242	£242
PERTH	£289	£469*	BOSTON	£135	£216	MEXICO CITY	£259	£352
AUCKLAND	£289	£504	WASHINGTON	£135	£216	RIO	£343	£438
BANGKOK	£224	£361	CHICAGO	£165	£291	JO'BURG	£231	£349
HONG KONG	£226	£351	FLORIDA	£155	£271	CAPE TOWN	£231	£379
SINGAPORE	£242	£373	LOS ANGELES	£222	£305	NAIROBI	£253	£368
BALI	£273	£427	SAN FRANCISCO	£222	£305	DUBAI	£182	£289
TOKYO	£328	£482	TORONTO	£199	£266	CAIRO	£141	£227
INDIA	£218	£353	VANCOUVER	£295	£361	AROUND THE WORLD		£698

*Departures Nov 98. **All USA & Canada fares valid 1 Nov 98 - 10 Dec 98

PLUS DISCOUNTED QUALITY ACCOMMODATION PER ROOM PER NIGHT FROM

AUSTRALIA £32 • USA £29 • AFRICA £39 • PACIFIC £46 • ASIA £20

USA CAR HIRE FROM £20 PER DAY • CALL NOW FOR OUR TAILORMADE WORLDWIDE AND NORTH AMERICA BROCHURES

TRAILFINDERS DOES NOT IMPOSE CHARGES ON CREDIT CARDS

AUSTRALIA FROM £784 RETURN AND RECEIVE FREE EITHER A FLIGHT TO EUROPE OR TWO DOMESTIC FLIGHTS IN AUSTRALIA OR RETURN FLIGHT TO NEW ZEALAND FROM AUSTRALIA

Travel dates 1 Nov-9 Dec 98 & 15 Jan-15 Mar 99. Airport taxes excluded on free flights.

QANTAS BRITISH AIRWAYS Preferred Agent. Conditions apply.

NO INSURANCE FEE FOR FULL PROTECTION AGAINST AIRLINE INSOLVENCY - CAA APPROVED

THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF THE TRAILFINDER MAGAZINE CALL 0171 938 3366 ANYTIME

ATOL 1458 IATA ABTA 69701

42-50 EARLS COURT ROAD LONDON W8 6FT
LONGHAUL TRAVEL: 0171-938 3366

194 KENSINGTON HIGH STREET LONDON W8 7RG
LONGHAUL TRAVEL: 0171-938 3939
FIRST & BUSINESS CLASS: 0171-938 3444

215 KENSINGTON HIGH STREET LONDON W8 6BD
TRANSATLANTIC & EUROPEAN: 0171-937 5400

22-24 THE PRIORY QUEENSWAY BIRMINGHAM B4 6BS
WORLDWIDE TRAVEL: 0121-236 1234

48 CORN STREET BRISTOL BS1 1HQ
WORLDWIDE TRAVEL: 0117-929 9000

254-284 SAUCHIEHALL STREET GLASGOW G2 3EH
WORLDWIDE TRAVEL: 0141-353 2224
FIRST & BUSINESS CLASS: 0141-353 2400

58 DEANSGATE MANCHESTER M3 2FF
WORLDWIDE TRAVEL: 0161-839 6969
FIRST & BUSINESS CLASS: 0161-839 3434

ALL OUR TRAVEL CENTRES ARE OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Delta Vacations OFFICIAL AIRLINE TOUR PROGRAMME

AMERICA

Flights • Car hire • Cruises
Hotel plus self catering
Weekend Breaks • Tailor-made
Departures from London, Manchester & other regional airports.
For current brochure and complete holiday requirements, please call:
LONDON 0171 731 3344
MANCHESTER 0161 278 7766

Australia New Zealand — LOWEST FARES AVAILABLE Call for details. See the... Great Barrier Reef, Ayers Rock, Sydney Opera House. Best Stopovers – Far East, USA, Africa, Fiji, Cook Islands. 01420-88724 / 0171-287 5556

USA Canada — RETURN FARES FROM USA £192 CANADA £240. Two cities for the price of one... Cruises, weekend shopping trips, theme parks, national parks & wildlife. 01420-88380 / 0171-287 5559

Far East — RETURN FARES FROM FAR EAST £373. Combine countries... Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, India, Malaysia, Hong Kong, China. Paradise islands, exciting culture, trekking, car hire. 01420-80828 / 0171-287 5558

Southern Africa — RETURN FARES FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA £341. Taste the wild... Kruger National Park. Okavango Swamps – Botswana. Safaris – Namibia, Tanzania. Victoria Falls – Zimbabwe. Wine – Cape Town. 01420-88140 / 0171-287 5535

BOOK BEFORE 16 OCTOBER 1998

Sydney Australia

UNBEATABLE FREE OFFERS
Choose from 4 flight offers listed below including...
- 2 FREE domestic flights (East Coast Australia)
- OR FREE return flight from East Coast Australia to New Zealand
- OR FREE separate return flight to Europe (selected destinations) with British Airways
- PLUS 2 FREE stopovers, choose from Bangkok, Singapore or Kuala Lumpur

Sydney – beautiful harbour, famous Opera House, combine city with beach, great food & wine ... Blue Mountains, Hunter Valley wine country, national parks all close by ... ideal to explore the variety of New South Wales and East Coast delights!

Sydney Special from £201 · East Coast Tour from £217 · Cairns Barrier Reef from £54 (3 nts accom, including transfers, per person, twin share)

Offer is valid for Travel between 01 Nov-09 Dec 98 and 15 Jan-15 Mar 99

QANTAS BRITISH AIRWAYS Preferred Agent

TRAVELBAG TOTAL SERVICE

- Unbeatable direct sell fare value on the world's top scheduled airlines with many regional UK departures.
- Our Specialist Travel Consultants tailor itineraries to your exact wishes
- We arrange everything: car-hire, rail, coach tours, hotels, adventures
- All the accommodation options: from budget stays to luxury hotels

ALTON: 12 High Street, Alton, Hampshire GU34 1BN Fax: 01420-82133
LONDON: 52 Regent Street, London, W1R 6DX Fax: 0171-287 4522
LONDON: 373-375 The Strand, London WC2R 0JF Fax: 0171-497 2923

OPEN 7 DAYS Mon-Fri 9am to 7pm, Sat 9am to 5pm, Sun 9am to 5pm (London 10am to 4pm)

All fares include pre-paid taxes, locally paid taxes may apply. All fares and offers are subject to availability, restrictions and conditions may also apply, ask for details.

SRI LANKA TOURS

RTN flights from (exc. taxes)
Colombo £400
Colombo & S'pore £450
Colombo, S'pore & Melbourne £490

0171 434 3921

DEPARTURE GATE

01273 626242

Monument Travel

01476 404747

Belfast from £39* one-way inc. taxes

Belfast from £68 return inc. taxes

Glasgow from £68 return inc. taxes

Manchester from £68 return inc. taxes

Paris from £75 return inc. taxes

Amsterdam from £78 return inc. taxes

Copenhagen from £99 return inc. taxes

Palma from £149 return inc. taxes

Warsaw from £165 return inc. taxes

Prague from £169 return inc. taxes

All we cut is the price.

Flight prices from London Heathrow.

For these and many more special European offers, contact your travel agent or call us (local rate) on

0845 6071622

More offers available from other airports in the UK and Ireland.

British Midland The Airline for Europe

Prices quoted available on selected dates and flights. Subject to availability. Return travel must include a Saturday night stay. Flight prices include UK and foreign levied taxes (exchange rates may vary). *3 days advance purchase required. Calls are recorded. Internet: http://www.flybritishmidland.com

---

Airline Network ~ the way to go!

USA & CANADA

PITTSBURGH	£225	FLORIDA	*£275
WASHINGTON	£225	DENVER	£284
ATLANTA	£225	CALIFORNIA	*£295
CHICAGO	£259	LAS VEGAS	*£295
HOUSTON	£264	PHOENIX	*£295
TORONTO	£270	VANCOUVER	£350

NEW YORK or BOSTON SPECIAL fr £225. Departures 1/11/98 - 12/12/98

USA HOTELS: ORLANDO fr £10 pppn · LOS ANGELES fr £13 pppn · WASHINGTON fr £31 pppn · NEW YORK fr £49 pppn. Prices based on two share

GREAT VALUE CAR RENTAL Alamo fr £16pw

100 leading scheduled airlines

AUSTRALIA & NZ

N. ZEALAND	£493	PERTH	£507
MELBOURNE	£497	SYDNEY	£509
BRISBANE	£507	CAIRNS	£514

QANTAS & BRITISH AIRWAYS 2 FREE OZ INTERNAL FLIGHTS. Conditions apply

AUSTRALIAN VISA SERVICE AVAILABLE

BUSINESS CLASS

DUBAI	*£598	JO'BURG	*£740
NEW YORK	£648	FLORIDA	£1146
BANGKOK	*£750	AUSTRALIA	*£1176

* based on two passengers travelling

QANTAS BRITISH AIRWAYS Preferred Agent

REST OF THE WORLD

CAIRO	£242	STH AFRICA	£388
DUBAI	£299	SINGAPORE	£391
BARBADOS	£349	MANILA	£397
HONG KONG	£364	MEXICO CITY	£432
BANGKOK	£368	RIO D. JANEIRO	£487
BEIJING	£378	BUENOS AIRES	£498
INDIA	£381	HARARE	£543

FAR EAST HOLIDAYS

SINGAPORE	3nts	3* hotel	fr £389
BANGKOK	4nts	4* hotel	fr £399
PENANG	9nts	3* hotel	fr £399
PHUKET	8nts	4* hotel	fr £479
HONG KONG	5nts	3* hotel	fr £489

Above prices include return flights based on per person twin share. Dates subject to availability

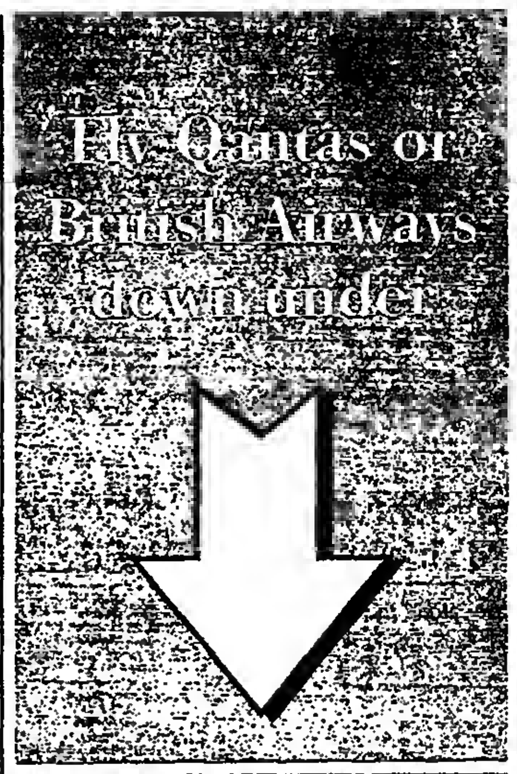
TRAVEL EXTRAS: Hotels * Insurance * Car Rental * Motorhomes * Villas * Coach Tours. 1,000,000 discount fares • 1,000 destinations

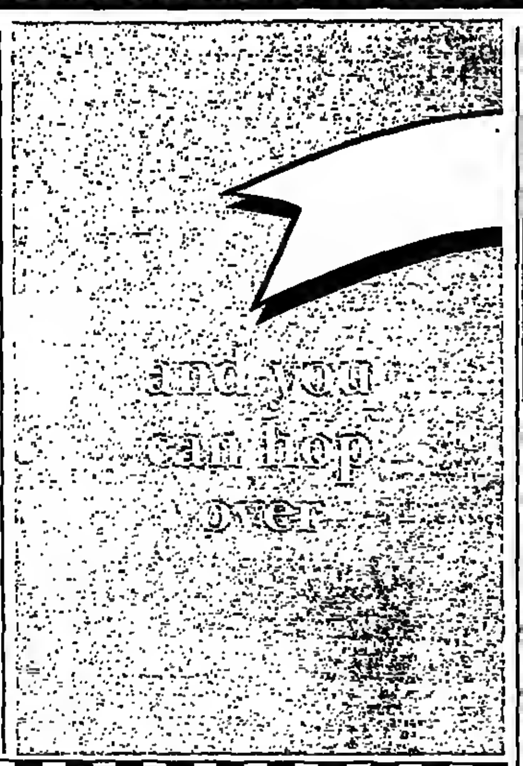
01772 727+ — USA & CANADA 272 · AUSTRALIA & NZ 727 · FAR EAST 727

CALL NOW - OPEN 9am - 9pm 7 DAYS A WEEK. Internet fares & bookings: www.airnet.co.uk

01772 727+ — REST OF THE WORLD 272 · FAR EAST HOLIDAYS 757 · BUSINESS CLASS 747

RETAIL AGENTS FOR ATOL HOLDERS • ALL PREPAYABLE AIRPORT TAXES INCLUDED





Book a Qantas/British Airways return flight from £678* to Australia (Adelaide, Brisbane, Cairns, Melbourne, Sydney) between 5th Sept and 16th Oct and you will get a free return flight to Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch.

Call Qantas on 0345 747300 or British Airways on 0345 222111 or see your travel agent for details on this and other offers.

QANTAS BRITISH AIRWAYS

COUNT DRACHMA (YOU WILL IF YOU INSURE YOUR GREEK HOLIDAY WITH US.)

From under £17 for two weeks, General Accident Direct charge less than half the price some travel agents do. Call the number below today. And Greece is the word.

General Accident Direct

0800 121 007

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK. www.ga.co.uk/gadirect

TRAVEL INSURANCE TAX FREEZE — SAVE 13.5% INSURANCE PREMIUM TAX. CLUB DIRECT 0800 074 4558

MIDNIGHT EXPRESS

ALICANTE fr £59 · IBIZA £99 · DALAMAN £158 · LANZAROTE £145 · FARO £115 · MAHON £99 · FUERTEVENTURA £154 · MALAGA £99 · CYPRUS £179 · PALMA £95 · G.CANARIA £145 · MALTA £134 · GREEK ISLES £139 · TENERIFE £129

01604 230503

---

benz

NEW YORK £183 · BANGKOK £320 · ISTANBUL £178 · BARBADOS £249 · JO'BURG £315 · CAIRO £230 · MANILA £365 · CHICAGO £269 · MOSCOW £245 · COLOMBO £379 · ORLANDO £169 · DELHI £299 · PARIS £85 · DUBAI £289 · PRAGUE £179 · GERMANY £89 · SINGAPORE £369 · GOA £329 · TORONTO £229

0171 255 2222

OVERSEAS EXPRESS — BEST OFFERS WORLDWIDE

BANGKOK fr £349 · MANILA · BOGOTA £474 · M'BOURNE £532 · DELHI £299 · MEXICO £384 · DUBAI £283 · MUNICH · HONG KONG £358 · NAIROBI · JO'BURG £346 · SEOUL

0171 724 2121

Only £55 Full Annual Cover Anywhere - Anytime. Fast & helpful. Check us out !!

Travelsafe 0800 783 2805 Worldwide Insurance

FLIGHTSEEKERS

SPAIN £99 · USA £249 · PORTUGAL £109 · CANADA £299 · CANARIES £119 · BANGKOK £199 · ISRAEL £199 · FAR EAST £349 · GREECE £139 · INDIA £305 · CYPRUS £159 · AUSTRALIA £459 · TURKEY £129 · AFRICA £315

0171 663 4425

NEXUS TRAVEL

0117 927 7727 • 0870 729 4973

FLIGHTWISE

FARO fr £69 · ORLANDO fr £169 · MALAGA £65 · TURKEY £109 · ALICANTE £65 · CANADA £149 · LANZAROTE £85 · MALTA £85 · TENERIFE £89 · CYPRUS £109 · LAS PALMAS £85 · GREECE £99 · BALEARICS £49 · CARIBBEAN £149

ALL EUROPEAN/WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS

01476 560089

FLIGHT TRADERS

Cheap Car Hire Available. ATOL 3795. Selected Flight Prices from: Spain 89 · Faro 89 · Rome 119 · Canada 179 · Canaries 69 · Caribbean 189 · Thessaloniki 109 · Athens 109 · Turkey 79 · Tel Aviv 139 · Jo'Burg 349 · Balearics 79. All European & Worldwide Dest. Available

01476 592692

FLIGHT CENTRE ATOL 3712

WORLDWIDE DISCOUNT FLIGHTS

ACCESS VISA WELCOME. DISCOUNTED INSURANCE

0181 669 3607

SUMMER BARGAINS

Last min hols £97-£189 Aug/Oct etc. High seas/school hols £209-£290. Exc value hols to Canaries/Spain/Balearics/Algarve/Cyp/Tun. Unique hol offers to Rhodes/Kos/Crete/Corfu/Zante/Paxos/. Specialist to Greek islands. 100's cheap flights Eur/WW

0181 767 3030

Cushy number.

London to Auckland return, from only £649*.

THE MOST COMFORTABLE ECONOMY CLASS SEAT IN THE AIR

AIR NEW ZEALAND. Call Bridge the World on 0171 734 7447

NICE, LISBON OR BERLIN FROM £119 RETURN

For details of our daily tax-inclusive return flights contact your travel agent or call AB Airlines FREE on

0800 45 88 111

Shannon from £85 (Gatwick, Stansted or Birmingham)
Nice from £119 (Gatwick)
Berlin from £119 (Gatwick)
Lisbon from £119 (Gatwick)

www.abairlines.com

AB AIRLINES FIRST FOR VALUE

Gatwick - Stansted - Birmingham - Shannon - Lisbon - Berlin - Nice

---

PLATINUM TRAVEL

ADVENTURE TRAVEL AND FLIGHTS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES

— CURRENT BEST BUYS — (Prices include all pre-paid taxes)

	O/W	RTN		O/W	RTN		O/W	RTN
SYDNEY	£299	£445	HONG KONG	£270	£349	JO'BURG	£230	£355
CAIRNS	£299	£505	BALI	£265	£420	CAPE TOWN	£237	£370
PERTH	£299	£505	SAIGON	£290	£430	MEXICO CITY	£247	£415
AUCKLAND	£299	£505	CAIRO	£166	£219	RIO DE JANEIRO	£318	£489
INDIA	£240	£335	BEIJING	£270	£420	HAVANA		£494
MADRAS	£286	£410	DUBAI	£209	£310	QUITO	£306	£490
KATHMANDU	£240	£415	TOKYO	£270	£450	TORONTO	£199	£279
COLOMBO	£265	£397	MAURITIUS	£410	£675	NEW YORK	£140	£249
BANGKOK	£215	£345	NAIROBI	£239	£315	LOS ANGELES	£299	£325
SINGAPORE	£260	£555	HARARE	£299	£470	CASABLANCA		£220

SPECIAL OFFER AUSTRALIA £625 rtn. Options include: 2 FREE Internal Flights within Australia OR FREE Return Flight to NZ from OZ OR FREE BA return flights to 17 European destinations from the UK. QANTAS

- AROUND THE WORLD -
LONDON - HONG KONG - CAIRNS - BRISBANE - AUCKLAND - FIJI - HAWAII - LOS ANGELES - LONDON £799

Whether you are holidaying or visiting home, would like to go direct or with a stopover, at Platinum Travel we offer more flights via more destinations, at all the right prices to suit your requirements.

LONG HAUL 0171 937 5122 TRANSATLANTIC & EUROPE 0171 937 2654

52 EARLS COURT ROAD, KENSINGTON, LONDON W8 6EJ
OPEN: MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9AM-6PM, SATURDAY 10AM-2PM

---

travel mood

BEST BUY FLIGHTS

SYDNEY return from	£519	NEW YORK return from	£184*
BRISBANE	£519	LOS ANGELES	£288*
MELBOURNE	£489	FLORIDA	£266*
PERTH	£469	SINGAPORE	£355
CAIRNS	£519	KUALA LUMPUR	£376
AUCKLAND	£504	BANGKOK	£355
JO'BURG	£344	HONG KONG	£357

*Departures 01 Jan - 24 Mar 1999

Round the World via USA, Australia & Far East from £773

0171 258 0280

London 246 Edgware Rd, London W2 1DS.
Scotland 61 Reform St, Dundee DD1 1SP.

ABTA C0965 IATA ATOL 3355. QANTAS APPOINTED AGENT

FARESAVERS

MALAGA fr £69 · GREECE fr £89 · ALICANTE £69 · TURKEY £89 · FARO £69 · ISRAEL £119 · TENERIFE £85 · MALTA £89 · LAS PALMAS £85 · CYPRUS £109 · LANZAROTE £79 · ITALY £109 · BALEARICS £59 · CARIBBEAN £139

ALL EUROPEAN/WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS

01476 592095

FLIGHT SEARCHERS

Malaga £63 · France £99 · Alicante 68 · Malta 99 · Canaries 79 · Italy 99 · Balearics 79 · Florida 199 · Portugal 69 · Canada 199 · Cyprus 139 · Caribbean 199 · Greek Isles 89 · Mexico 259 · Turkey 99 · Australia 449

01920 484007

TRAVEL Insurance We will not be beaten on price!

USA - 17days £29.00 · 12months Australia £150 · Worldwide family Multi-trip £93.00 · EUROPE 10days £11.00

FREE AIRPORT PARKING WITH EVERY POLICY

Premier Direct TIS Ltd

0990 133218 7 days

JETLINE

SPAIN 79 · USA 249 · PORTUGAL 79 · CARIBBEAN 219 · CANARIES 89 · S. AFRICA 349 · ISRAEL 149 · CANADA 229 · GREECE 129 · INDIA 299 · CYPRUS 135 · FAR EAST 339 · TURKEY 109 · AUSTRALIA 529

GOA SPECIALISTS

0171 360 1111

Travel Insurance

Comprehensive Policies From £1 per day. *No age limit *Any destination

SUN SELECTION 01582 476026

LOW Cost - Worldwide - Travel Flights /Holidays/Insurance/Car Hire 01344 752520 (Bonded Agents for ATOL) TTA 89097

هكذا من الأصل

هديا من الاصل

All smiles in Soweto for new era of peace

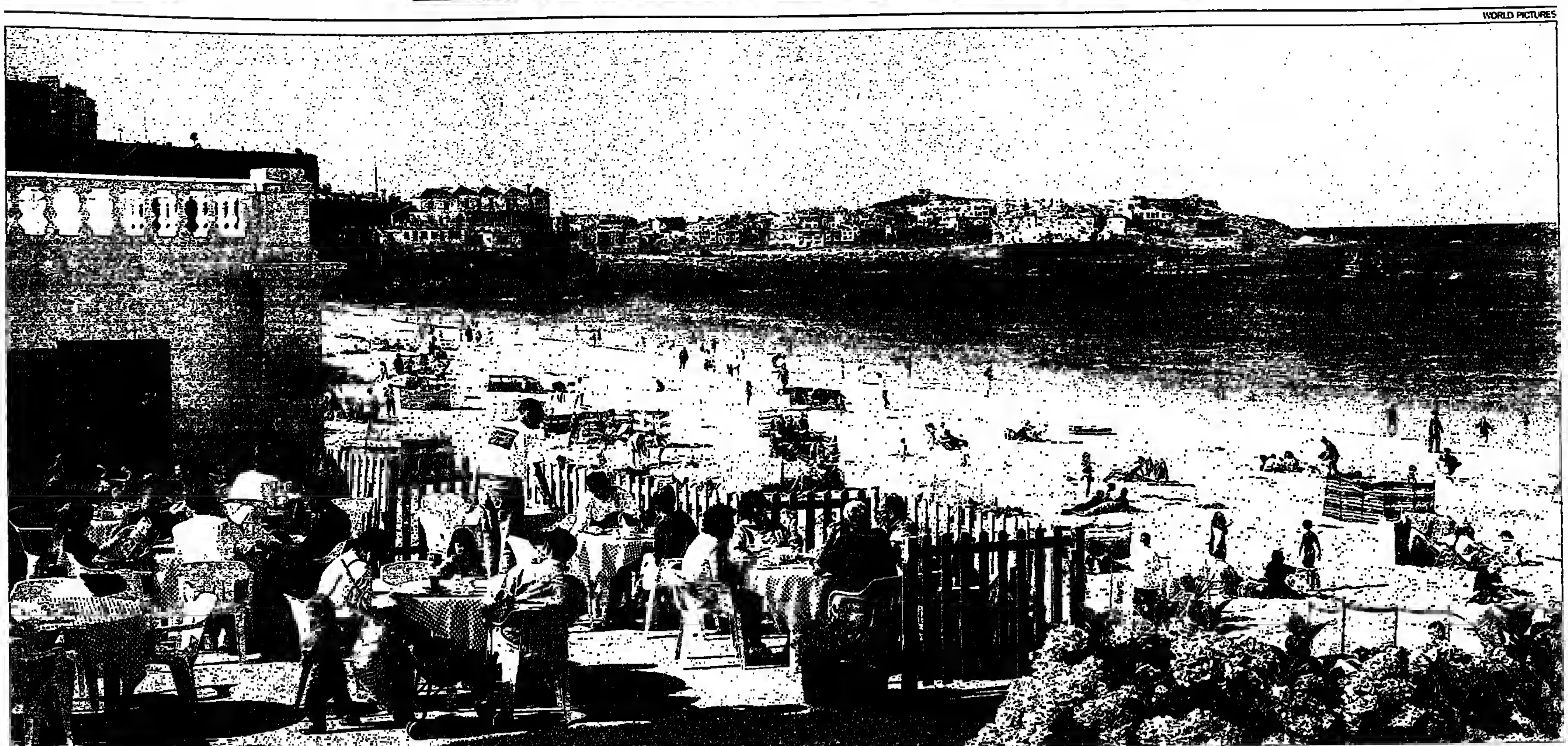
South Africa • 26, 27

THE TIMES TRAVEL

Nostalgic journey and a toast to romance

Portugal • 28

WORLD PICTURES



Say goodbye to egg and chips — diners at the Porthminster Café, above, on Porthminster Beach, St Ives, are more likely to find Moroccan specialities and good wines on the menu, reflecting Cornwall's cosmopolitan air

From beach cred to street cred

Cornwall has always been popular for family holidays; now it is also showing signs of becoming chic, as **Paul Mansfield** discovers

The terrace bar beneath my room was packed, and it occurred to me — as a purely hypothetical notion — that if I nosedived out of the window I would probably flatten half of London's bright young things. So where was this? Not some fashionable Islington *point de rencontre*, but the Hotel Tresanton in St Mawes, Cornwall.

This impeccably chic hotel, which opened in June, is the latest proof that Cornwall is becoming fashionable. The evidence has been emerging for some years. Take a growing number of professional people relocating from London (an early pioneer was Tim Smit, Barry Manilow's former producer, who transformed the derelict Lost Gardens of Heligan into the country's most-visited garden). Add an expanding number of good restaurants, mix in a handful of far-sighted entrepreneurs who have invested money in upmarket hotels — three have opened in the past few months alone. Finally, add the occasional "act of God" — next year's total eclipse of the sun, for example — and, taken as a whole, you have a recipe for a style revolution.

There is a physical and psychological shift as you leave behind the hedgerows and picture-postcard villages of Devon and enter rugged open country dotted with grey stone houses with slate roofs. The place names change, with the solid "Saints" and "Abotts" of middle England giving way to strange, exotic-sounding villages called Baldhu, Gwinear and Marazion.

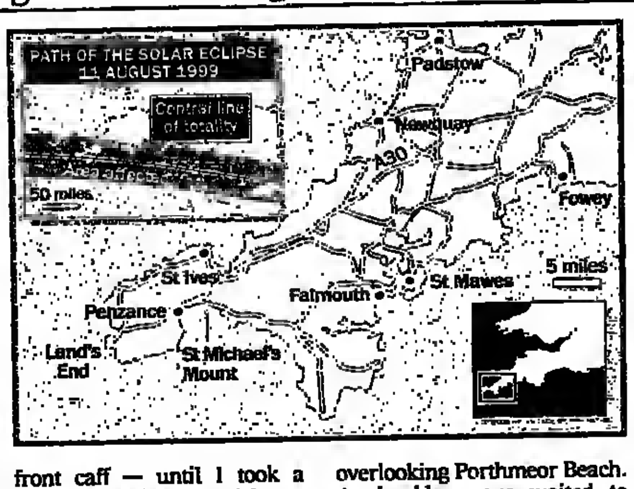
Penzance is bathed in silvery light, with the humped outline of St Michael's Mount rising up from the sand at low tide. At once desolate, romantic and alluring, Cornwall feels strikingly un-English.

The road to Land's End was busy with family cars which, on a rainy day, clog the byways of Cornwall heading from one "attraction" to another. Many of these tourist set-ups have historical themes — recreations of Cornish village life, of a tin mine, of shipwrecks — and are awkwardly positioned between educational exhibit and theme park.

Of Land's End, the least said the better. With its souvenir shops, restaurants and spurious exhibits, it is a national disgrace. Most British families seem content — or resigned — to handing over their cash to keep the kids quiet.

Only the foreign visitors, many in shorts and dressed for a proper day's hiking, walk around with a disappointed air. They at least seem to know what we have lost by turning the wild edge of Britain into an amusement park.

But not even Land's End can detract from the rugged grandeur of Cornwall's north coast. I drove along the coast road, stopping now and then to leave the car and clamber down to the beach, to watch the Atlantic waves pounding on black rocks, listen to the gulls and smell the brine and kelp. This natural beauty is bringing a new generation of visitors to the southwest.



St Ives is where you first notice real evidence of Cornwall's gentrification. The town has always been proud of its artists' colony and "galleries" (St Ives-speak for "art shops"). Now it is awash with brightly coloured umbrellas and cappuccino signs. Near the winding lanes of the town centre, street signs advise pedestrians that they are entering "an alcohol-free zone". In other words, "No yobbos, please".

On Porthminster Beach, kids were building sandcastles in front of a row of faded chalets. The Porthminster Café seemed like an ordinary beach-front caff — until I took a closer look at its menu. Moroccan hummus, Tuscan bean salad, a good international wine list and all served with the minimum pretension.

St Ives Tate Gallery, a resounding success since its opening five years ago, is housed in a stunning building overlooking Porthmeor Beach. A sizeable queue waited to view the assembled Ben Nicolsons and Barbara Hepworths, and they were, for the most part, ordinary holidaymakers; proof that it is not mandatory to be young, fashionable and urban to take an interest in the visual arts.

There were kids in the queue at the Tate and there were more kids at Fowey Hall. This 19th-century mansion is another of the new breed of Cornish hotels. Luxury Family Hotels, owner of three successful child-friendly properties, has taken an imposing country house, with a sumptuous interior and five acres of private gardens, and adapted it to the needs of the modern travelling family. There is an elegant restaurant, in which guests dine on grouse and grilled goat's cheese, relaxed in the knowledge that their sleeping offspring are being closely monitored by staff.

On to Newquay, which even the locals admit is still the subject of prejudice. "You'll either love it or loathe it," they say — implying that anyone over the age of 18 and not wearing a wetsuit is doomed to loathe it. In fact, Newquay is terrific fun, whatever your age. As I sat immobilised at traffic lights, a teenager skateboarded past, weaving through the traffic with ease. Welcome to Newquay.

The town's best-known beach, Fistral, has been given over completely to surf culture. Tanned young bodies beautiful strutted their stuff at the water's edge, ghetto-blasters boomed, wetsuits hung from the windows of hotels, and bars were packed with borderline-age drinkers (this year's beverage-of-choice is the silver-bottled Malibu Spice).

Cornwall's gentrification is unlikely to affect Newquay — surfers are not interested in fancy restaurants and upmarket hotels. But the town exerts its own influence. Driving around the coast, I had noticed signs of a vibrant, if undefinable, youth culture. Henna tattoos on offer here, hair-braiding there; tie-dyed crop tops, Lycra shorts, mirrored shades with heavy duty neck-straps — it is a seaside dress code. Now, I realised, Newquay's contribution to Cornwall's regeneration is street cred.

So, finally, to St Mawes, with its pretty harbour flanked by green hills offering views out to sea. At early evening, kids were leaping off the harbour wall into the water. And at the far end of the bay, looking across to the lighthouse on St Anthony Head was the Hotel Tresanton.

Once a grand hotel, frequented in the 1950s by the likes of Princess Margaret, it fell into decline before being rescued by Olga Polizzi, daughter of Lord Forte. The Tresanton's 28 rooms are simply and beautifully decorated (blue-and-white striped curtains, fluffy white duvet and pillows), its corridors spotlit and minimalist.

Olga Polizzi's family and friends are often found at the Tresanton: her writer husband William Shawcross occasionally waits at tables. Daughter Charlie's wedding last weekend to Oliver Peyton, owner of the Atlantic Bar and Grill in London, was the social event of the summer.

At dinner on the terrace, there is a convivial, casual crowd. Yachts and powerboats flit across the harbour. As the light fades, the beam of the lighthouse blinks on and there is the distant clanking of anchor chains from freighters waiting to get into neighbouring Falmouth. Perfect.

In the morning, Olga Polizzi gazed across the peaceful bay. "If this was the South of France it would be absolutely packed," she said. "Cornwall is so uncrowded." Probably not for long. The Duchy's resurgence is moving into high gear. "Something definitely seems to be happening here," said Olga, "and we're right in the middle of it."

PETER NICHOLLS

Olga Polizzi at her St Mawes hotel, the Tresanton

CORNISH FACT FILE

■ Paul Mansfield travelled with Great Western Trains and Brymon Airways and stayed at Fowey Hall and Hotel Tresanton.
■ Getting there: Great Western Trains (0345 000125) has six services a day (plus one overnight sleeper) from London Paddington to Penzance. From £31 return: must be booked a week in advance. Brymon Airways has return flights from Gatwick to Newquay from £99. Book on 0345 222111.
■ Car hire: Europcar (0345 222525) has offices in Penzance and Newquay airport. From £157 weekly, £38 daily for a Group A car.
■ Where to stay: Fowey Hall (01726 833866), from £125 a double, including breakfast. Hotel Tresanton, St Mawes (01326 270055), from £200-£250 a double, including breakfast.
■ Reading: *Britain* (Lonely Planet, £14.99); *Rebecca* and *The House on the Strand* by Daphne du Maurier (both Arrow, £5.99), for descriptions of Cornish countryside.
■ Further information: Cornwall Tourist Board (01872 274057).

PICTURES

Coastal culture: the Tate Gallery at St Ives

Glasgow from £39* one-way inc. taxes
Glasgow from £68 return inc. taxes
Dublin from £79 return inc. taxes
Oslo from £108 return inc. taxes
Frankfurt from £139 return inc. taxes
Nice from £139 return inc. taxes
Warsaw from £165 return inc. taxes
Prague from £169 return inc. taxes

All we cut is the price.

For these and many more special European offers, contact your travel agent or call us (local rate) on

0845 6071624

Flight prices from London Heathrow.

BM British Midland
The Airline for Europe

SOUTH AFRICA: TOWNSHIP TOUR

Peaceful Soweto welcomes tourists

Tom Chesshyre ventures into the best-known township in South Africa, now coming into its own as a friendly place to visit

"The police shot at us here," recalled Valencia Madliwa, our Soweto tour guide. "There was chaos. People were frantically running to get away. Children were killed. It was a terrible, terrible time."

We were at Hector Peterson Square, named after the first child to die when police opened fire on pupils protesting against the introduction of Afrikaans in black schools in 1976. Anti-government riots raged for eight days; by the end, the death toll stood at 140. It was a pivotal moment in the struggle against apartheid: reports of the unrest helped to turn world opinion against the white regime.

Valencia was 16 at the time. "I had to leave Soweto immediately for safety and go to live with my uncle in the Eastern Cape. It was lucky I did, as the police came around looking for me and wrecked my parents' house," she said, her voice cracking with emotion.

Most visitors to South Africa come to gaze through binoculars at wildlife in the national parks or to sip dry white wines in the Cape. Until recently, townships have been considered off the tourist map: crime-ridden no-go zones where camera-dangling foreigners risk muggings.

But all this is changing. Crime against tourists has fallen and several tour operators — including upmarket companies such as BA Holidays — now include township visits. Although few people are likely to visit the country just to see a township, a day trip to Soweto (short for South Western Townships) is rapidly becoming *de rigueur*.

We were visiting after staying overnight in Sandton, a wealthy suburb in north Johannesburg packed with shopping malls selling Nike and Ralph Lauren, all-you-can-eat rib restaurants, international chain hotels and huge houses protected by barbed wire fences and security cameras. BMWs and Jags zipped along roads lined with azaleas and palms. The contrast with South Africa's largest township could hardly have been greater. Our first sight was of rain-shackle shanty towns consisting of tightly-packed wooden huts with makeshift corrugated iron roofs.

Rubbish littered the streets: old newspapers, bits of broken fences and crumpled Coke cans. On some street corners, overflowing rubbish skips had been set alight: black smoke trickled upwards and hung in a layer of smog in the still Sowetan sky.

Nobody, however, seemed too interested in a minibus filled with white tourists. While we were stuck in a traffic jam, a donkey cart carrying corrugated iron and wooden sticks passed in the opposite direction; the Steptoe-like character directing it gave us a gap-toothed smile. Then a shoeless man pushing an old shopping trolley holding two pigs strolled past without even glancing at us.

Our day trip began with a stop at a market by a busy bus terminal next to Baragwanath Hospital. Its stalls sold spicy beef and rice dishes ("Come and have breakfast, my friends!" exclaimed the chef), as well as bead jewellery, herbal remedies and cheap leather wallets.

"This is incredible," said a member of our group from Johannesburg. "I'd never have even dreamt I'd come to Soweto and now I'm able to just walk around like this."

We ate lunch at Wandie's Place on the outskirts of Orlando West. It is Soweto's best-known shebeen and firmly on the tourist trail: pictures of Richard Branson and Evander Holyfield adorn its walls. Outside, next to a sign saying "No takkies (trainers), caps and weapons allowed", there was a small stall selling colourful beads and purses.

Pepi Sathekge, wearing an Ellesse hat and a South African rugby shirt, was manning it. "Of course, like everywhere, there are criminals in Soweto," he said. "But most people have recognised that tourism provides an opportunity to build a better life here."

The food was excellent. I had curried beef stew (£2.70) and there was also a buffet serving deep-fried hake, lamb stew, curried vegetables and salads (£6). There were a few other tourists eating, but it had not been taken over by hordes of foreigners.

Our next stop-off was at the former home of Nelson and Winnie Mandela (now known as Winnie Madikizela-Mandela), which is on the same street as Archbishop Desmond Tutu's house. It is now a museum, and the closest Soweto comes to accommodating mass tourism. Since opening last November it has attracted up to 1,000 visitors a day. Run by Winnie, it is officially called the Winnie Mandela and Family Museum (there is a continuing controversy about where the tourist cash is going: Nelson Mandela wants the museum to be taken into public ownership).

Everywhere there are signs of the house's dark past. It was burnt to the ground in 1988 by Sowetans angry with Winnie's violent bodyguards, known as the Mandela United Football Club. There are bullet holes in the walls and black marks from another arson attack.

Inside the small, red-brick house — in which Nelson Mandela lived in the Fifties — there are childhood photos of Winnie as well as honorary degrees awarded to the President, ANC flags, a videotape of *Gandhi* and a poster reading: "None of this Earth shall kill your spirit!"

A shop sells T-shirts with slogans referring to Mrs Mandela as "The Mother of the Nation", although the most popular T-shirt, according to the attendant, says: "I have been to Soweto . . . I have met Sowetans".

This message touches on concern among Sowetans that tourists come for voyeuristic thrills. "It's good just to be able to say you've been here," admitted an American tourist. The local joke for this type of visitor is: "Welcome to Soweto . . . Now go home". Restrained language, given how some must feel.

In the final stretch of the tour we saw how the township's other half lives. Winnie Mandela now lives in a mansion in the Diepkloof Extension, Soweto's Beverly Hills.

The place is enormous, with vast walls, security cameras, perfectly mown lawns. There are more than 20 rand millionaires in Diepkloof and plenty of Porsches and BMWs.

We had one (minor) scare. On our way out of Soweto, a car driven by a gang of youths swerved past us and then, going backwards, accelerated down the road before skidding to a halt 100 yards away. For a moment, we wondered if this was the prelude to a minibus-jacking — but then it sped away.

"I thought we were in trouble there," said one of the South Africans in our group. Valencia raised her eyebrows and replied: "You must be joking — they're just messing about. It is fine for tourists in Soweto now.

"A few years ago it may have been different, but now if you come with a guided group it's safer than downtown Johannesburg."

Not only was the Soweto tour safe, it was also the highlight of our South African trip. After a week of taking in sights from Durban to Johannesburg via Kruger National Park, our day in Soweto was by far the most memorable. In a few hours we learnt more about the new South Africa than we would ever glean in a game reserve or Cape vineyard.

We had been to Soweto, met Sowetans — and were going home the better for it.

Winnie Mandela is still revered in the townships, and the house she shared with Nelson Mandela — pictured here on opening day — has now become a museum

AXIOM

The residents of Soweto may be poor, but they are keen to welcome tourists who want to know more about their way of life

FACT FILE

- Tom Chesshyre travelled with British Airways Holidays.
- *Getting there:* British Airways Holidays (0870-242 4249) has a 12-night tour of South Africa that includes a visit to Soweto from £1,979 per person, based on two sharing. Return flights from Heathrow. The tour begins in Cape Town and goes through Oudtshoorn, before boarding a steam train from Knysna to Wilderness. Next departure: October 28.
- Soweto tours: Jimmy's Face to Face Tours (0027 11 331 6109), Imbizo Tours (838 2667), Max Maximum Tours (933 4177).
- Further information: South African Tourism Board (0181-944 8080).

SOUTH AFRICA

WEB WORLD

- THE "WHERE DO I START?" SITE: *http://africa.com/* is the gateway to all that's African on the web, from history to business opportunities. *http://www.city.net/regions/africa* is a clear guide to South Africa, including Robben Island, site of Mandela's prison. *http://rodie.animal.uiuc.edu/Documents/RSA.html* is a basic but informative guide to regions and attractions.
- THE MUGGING-UP SITE: *http://www.travel.co.za/travel.html* includes a glossary of common Afrikaans words and discounts on hotel bookings. Be a Virtual Tourist at *http://www.vtourist.com/Africa/* or go to *http://www.backpackers.com/index.html* for forums and guides.
- KER-CHING! THE BEST DEAL SITE: E-mail *http://www.indiana.edu/~afrist/out/video.html* for free video-lending of African studies and feature films, including the original *Cry the Beloved Country* from 1951. Register online at *http://www.travelocity.com* for bargain airfares. *http://www.gorp.com/gorp/location/africa/africa.htm* has a good list of outdoor trips.
- TRAVELLERS' TALES SITE: The *Journal of African Travel-Writing* offers all sorts at *http://www.unc.edu/~ottotwo*
- "WELL, I NEVER!" THE RANDOM SITE: For real budget travellers *http://www3.sympatico.ca/donna.mcsherry/africa.htm* is a hilarious guide to sleeping in airports in Africa and elsewhere.

SUSANNAH JOWITT

Same old routine (v) Vive la différence!

With Daytrips to France for just £35 – as well as great Duty Free savings – why not try something new for a change?

www.eurotunnel.com 0990 35 35 35 or contact your travel agent

EURO TUNNEL

Folkestone-Calais/Coquelles in 35 minutes, up to 4 times an hour, 24 hours a day.

are covered by current Conditions of Carriage. These contain certain exclusions of liability and you are advised to read them before travelling. Copies can be obtained on request. Travel for Daytrips is for Passenger shuttle departures from Folkestone before 20:00 hours, and for returns departures from Calais/Coquelles before midnight (local time) of the same day. Travel must be completed by 31.12.98.

هكذا من الأصل

SOUTH AFRICA: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ALAN PATON

A majestic, still beloved country

Adrian Mourby used a novel as his guide to the new South Africa

The Beloved Country is big. Wooded hills soar up to 1,400 metres and valleys, cut by the Umzimkulu Mkomazi and Mgeni rivers, are as broad as their waters run shallow. The countryside where Alan Paton's novel *Cry, The Beloved Country* begins looks like the Brecon Beacons writ large. But the Beacons would be mere foothills here. From Ixopo I saw a dark, circular encampment of Zulu villages, with Paton's rolling hills — "lovely beyond singing" — soaring hundreds of feet upwards in the background.

Statue of Mahatma Gandhi

I came here to retrace the footsteps of the Rev Stephen Kumalo, aged hero of the novel that Paton wrote 50 years ago; a man who, in the words of the book's first line, travels down "a lovely road that runs from Ixopo to the hills". In those days the hills were grass-covered and rolling, although they were in danger of being eroded by bad farming. Fortunately this did not happen and now they have been carefully replanted with verdant trees: it is majestic scenery.

In the story, Kumalo is an *umfundisi*, a black parson living under a system of Separate Development in the years just before apartheid. Based in the countryside, Kumalo manages to steer clear of the misery of racial discrimination and poverty, but soon encounters it when he sets out to find his missing son, Absolom, who is in a condemned cell in Johannesburg.

I wanted to repeat that journey — under totally different circumstances — in the South Africa of President Nelson Mandela. How much had the country changed since Paton visited? How dated would *Cry, The Beloved Country* — which helped bring apartheid to the attention of the world — look?

I began my pilgrimage in Ixopo itself, a colonial settlement that the British tried to call Stuartstown but which never shook off its Zulu name for a nearby marsh. Ixopo today is a prosperous little settlement built on either side of a wide, clean street with a bank, supermarket and a hotel. The Off Saddle, which still bears the name it was given in the trekking days of 1878.

There wasn't much to see in Ixopo in 1948 when Paton wrote his novel, and he would probably be pleased to know that there still isn't. I didn't find Dead Men's Tree, where notices of execution were posted, but I did stop outside the Ixopo Lodge on St Margaret's Road, with its dark Masonic symbols picked out in the gleaming white stucco.

A smart Zulu woman, dressed for Sunday with a handbag carried on her head, told me that people still held meetings in the lodge once a month. "Masons?" I asked.

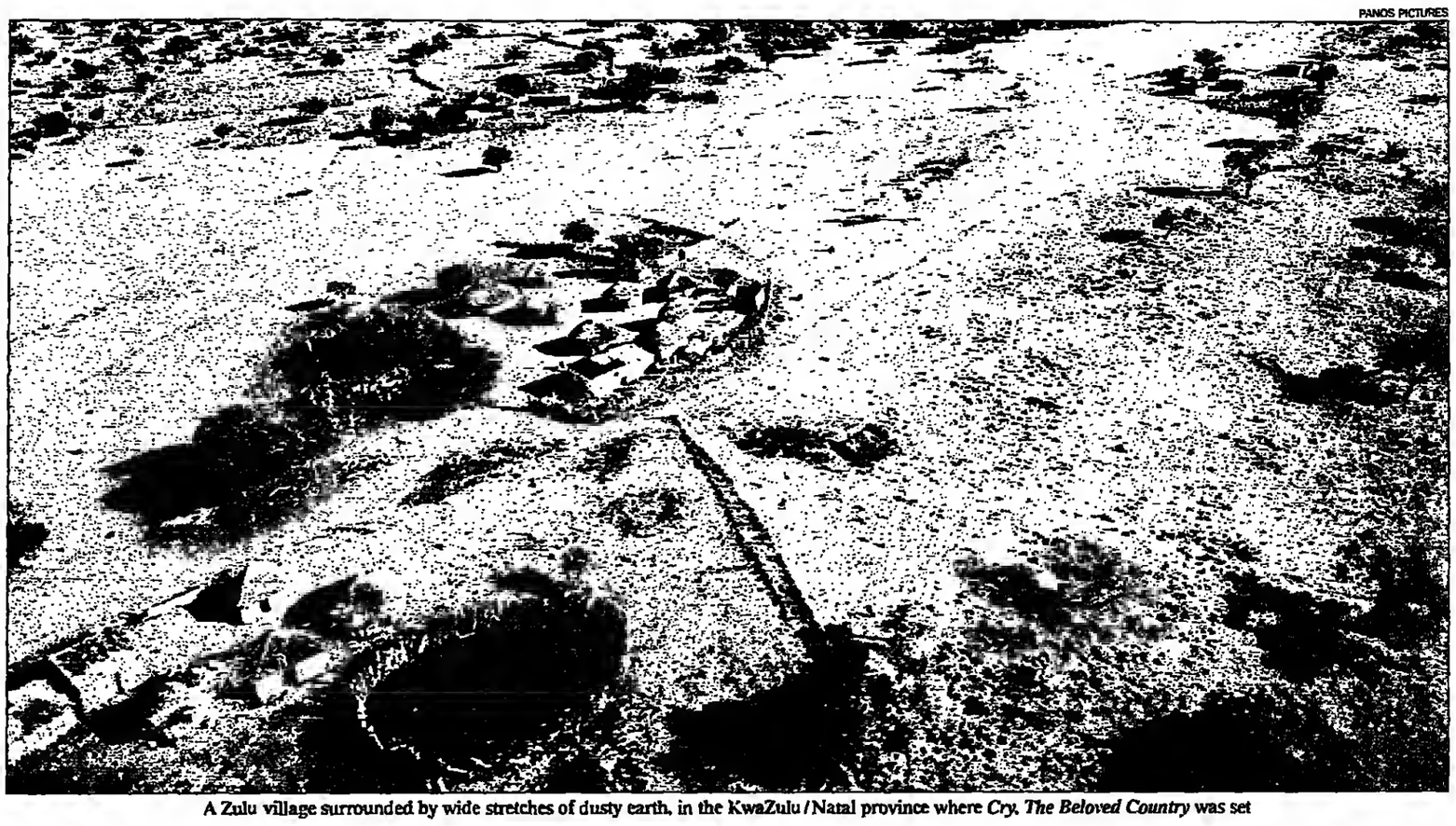
"Males," she replied, which seemed answer enough.

My hero's route to the big city was via a small train up out of the Umzimkulu valley and on to Pietermaritzburg via Donnybrook. No trains run from Donnybrook these days, so I decided to drive to Pietermaritzburg, where Paton taught.

MIRAMAX

Richard Harris and James Earl Jones in the film

PANOS PICTURES



A Zulu village surrounded by wide stretches of dusty earth, in the KwaZulu/Natal province where *Cry, The Beloved Country* was set

The air was hot, even with the car windows open. There were few people on the roadsides as I neared the outskirts of the city, but I did notice the occasional Zulu youth carrying a blunt *assegai* and small "courting" shield, which in Natal signifies that a young man is on the hunt for conquests. Then, over a hill, I saw Pietermaritzburg, what Paton called "the lovely city", which lookedsurprisingly delicate in the broad Msunduzi valley.

Pietermaritzburg is best known for its railway station, where in 1893 a young Indian lawyer, Mohandas Gandhi, was thrown off the train for refusing to leave the first-class carriage. A plaque now marks the spot where the Mahatma's journey came to grief and he decided something had to be done for second-class citizens the world over. Nearby, a more recent plaque commemorates the occasion last year when Nelson Mandela made Gandhi a posthumous citizen of Pietermaritzburg.

With its vast brick City Hall and Stock Exchange, its stone memorials and civic art gallery, Pietermaritzburg looks for all the world like an American frontier town rebuilt in the style of Salford.

The city centre is most unexpected, a rectangular grid of red-bricked Victorian streets and alleyways, the veldt still in sight at the end of Commercial Road.

Possibly, the city appears more exotic to Africans than it did to me, so after visiting the site of Gandhi's rude ejection, I drove on to the University of Natal, where the Alan Paton Centre is housed in a charming old campus bungalow. Here visitors can browse around a recreation of Paton's study and watch educational videos.

More serious students of conflict and conciliation can spend time in the archive, set up to preserve evidence of South Africa's liberal struggle. Some of these documents were hidden for 28 years during the time that the likes of Paton, Mandela and Bishop Trevor Huddleston were persecuted by the apartheid regime.

I left Pietermaritzburg to head off along the N3 through what Paton called "the battlefields of long ago": the carnage sites from both the Boer and Zulu wars.

My next stop was Howick Falls, a spectacular drop, near which men were selling Zulu carvings. After admiring the view, I drove on and soon encountered two unusual shrines to South Africa's long history of imprisoning the wrong men.

The first, at Tsiamelo, commemorates the spot where in 1964 a disguised renegade, one Nelson Mandela, was captured. The second, only a few miles away at Frere, marks the place where a young war reporter, Winston Churchill, was captured by Boers and held for two months in 1900. It seems a remarkable coincidence that both prisoners went on to lead their countries in old age, although Churchill was the more fortunate. He escaped after only two months; Mandela, however, had to wait 26 years for his freedom.

Between Pietermaritzburg and Johannesburg the road creeps up to the High Veldt. This was where Kumalo awakes to find himself amazed by the scale of industrialisation in the region. As I drove north I found myself in a landscape that was probably little changed. Huge, dusty spaces were relieved by the occasional glimpse of cooling towers, clustered on the distant horizon.

The Beloved Country was big and brown and seemed to go on forever. "All roads lead to Johannesburg," Paton wrote, but he omitted to warn us how long they are.

On reaching Claremont, the suburb where his sister Gertrude worked as a prostitute, Kumalo is swindled out of his money. Here, as Paton put it, "you can see liquor running in the streets". The slum that was Claremont was demolished in the 1960s to make way for some depressingly cheap apartment blocks but, when I pulled off the road, it was obvious that for some people — white and black — the streets still ran sad with liquor.

Less depressing was Sophiatown, where Kumalo stays with his clergy friend Msimangu. This high peak overlooking the city was subsequently redeveloped in the 1950s as a Whites Only area under apartheid and renamed Triomf (triumph). Now, however, the black population is moving back. The old name of Sophiatown is reappearing everywhere and at the Church of Christ the King — where from 1941 to 1955 the late Archbishop Trevor Huddleston was incumbent — a black and coloured congregation has returned.

Alan Paton's study

> 'Then I saw Pietermaritzburg, Paton's lovely city, delicate in the broad Msunduzi valley'

Huddleston — the great Christian campaigner who became the scourge of the apartheid regime — would, no doubt, be pleased at the changes in Sophiatown, but less delighted perhaps at the board outside his church that announces "These buildings are protected by BBR Armed Reaction Service". That, alas, is another sign of modern times in Johannesburg.

The cover of Paton's novel

I drove south out of the city centre in search of Pimville, where the young Absolom Kumalo had made a local girl pregnant, only to find it is now part of the old South Western Townships, known to the world today as Soweto. This was the most joyful place that I found in Johannesburg, wealthier than you might expect and welcoming to a white tourist with his camera. Much must have changed since Paton died in 1988.

As head of state, Mandela now lives in Houghton, a leafy, affluent suburb. By a wonderful irony this is where Jarvis (the good white man whom Absolom Kumalo kills and for whose death he must be executed) lived in Paton's book. That Mandela, apartheid's victim for 26 years, now finds himself residing there shows how far the tables have turned in South Africa.

SOUTH AFRICA FACT FILE

■ Adrian Mourby flew with South African Airways (0171-312 5000) which is offering Heathrow to Durban for £369 plus £26 tax (book before September 30, travel within certain dates before January 31, 1999). October fares from £560 plus £26 tax.

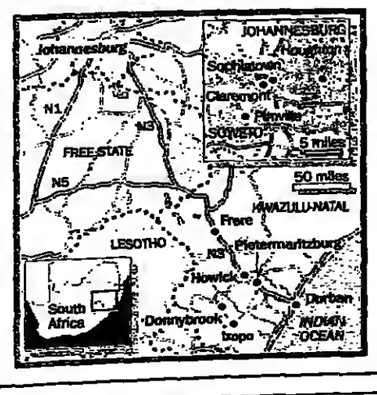
■ Where to stay: Off Saddle Hotel (0027 336 341027) in Ixopo: double rooms are £20 and singles £10, breakfast included. The Imperial Protea (331 426551) in Pietermaritzburg has doubles from £38.50 and singles from £35. Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza (11 783 5262) in Sandton City, Johannesburg has doubles at £84. Singles are £69, room-only.

■ Car hire: Avis has two weeks' all-inclusive Group A car rental from £300 (0990 900500); Budget has two weeks' all-inclusive car hire from £250 (0541 565656). Pick-ups for both are at Durban Airport and cars can be returned to the airport or depots in Johannesburg.

■ Getting around: The overnight trans-Natal train from Pietermaritzburg to Johannesburg costs £14 first class and £9.50 second class; bed and bedding is an extra £2 for both classes. Telephone 331 958 2010 for tickets.

■ The Alan Paton Centre. For more information call the manuscript librarian Jocelyn Leslie-Smith (331 260 5926).

■ Reading: *Cry, The Beloved Country*, by Alan Paton (Penguin, £6.99).



CANADA
ONTARIO
For the best TAILOR MADE itineraries to Ontario together with expert advice & service call, fax or write for a professional competitive written quotation and brochure.
TELEPHONE TAILOR MADE TRAVEL ON 01386 40891 NOW FOR A BROCHURE
or fax 01386 49445 or e-mail us on sales@tailor-made.co.uk or check us out on the internet http://www.tailor-made.co.uk
TAILOR MADE
16 PORT STREET • EVESHAM
WORCESTERSHIRE • WR11 6AN

A fascinating 8-day tour from only £315

PLUS THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADD A WEEK IN SORRENTO, LIDO DI JESOLO OR LAKE GARDA

YOUR TOURING ITINERARY

Day 1: Fly to Venice.

Day 2: Venice, a city of unparalleled beauty, is a feast of wonderful sights. Included boat ride into the centre of Venice where you can join the optional city sightseeing tour. Also included is a visit to a traditional glass blowing factory.

Day 3: South to Assisi to visit this picturesque medieval town en route to Rome. 3 nights at Rome-Lido approx. 35kms from Rome.

Days 4 & 5: The city of Rome overflows with art, palaces and antiquities – and boasts some of Italy's finest restaurants and shops. Our optional city tour will help you to get your bearings.

Day 6: Travel into Tuscany and to Pisa for sightseeing. Then on to the Florence area for a two night stay.

Day 7: Florence – A whole day to discover the beautiful sights of Florence. Cafés, shops and fine arcades add to the unique atmosphere of this historic city.

Day 8: A last glimpse of Tuscany before reaching Venice for the flight to the UK.

TOUR PRICES INCLUDE

★ Flights from Gatwick or Stansted included. Flights from Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow are available at a supplement.
★ Fully Escorted Tour on a comfortable, air-conditioned coach with semi-reclining seats.
★ Services of an Archers tour director.
★ Hotel Accommodation: 7 nights in twin rooms with private facilities.
★ Meals: 7 breakfasts; 4 dinners.
★ Porterage at en-route hotels.
★ Local Coach Connections from over 1,000 towns to your departure airport for only £5.
★ All airport taxes and security charges.

FREE TRAVEL INSURANCE for all '99 holidays departing May 1-Oct 31 incl. IF YOU BOOK BEFORE CHRISTMAS '98

Discover three Italian cities that together are a treasure trove of culture, bonded by their history, yet totally different in character.

HIGHLIGHTS

VENICE
Take a 'Vaporetto' waterbus to the famous Rialto bridge or hire a gondola and drift through the criss-crossing canals.

FLORENCE
The many sights include the Cathedral, 14th century Ponte Vecchio and the many palaces and works of art like Michelangelo's David.

ROME
Rome is rich in relics of the past, the Forum and the Colosseum represent ancient Rome; Piazza Navona, the historic centre of the city, and the Vatican and St Peter's, the religious centre.

ASSISI
The town of the deeply mystical St. Francis. Still enclosed by ramparts, Assisi has changed little since the Middle Ages.

PISA
All the buildings of the Campo del Miracoli lean due to their shallow foundations but none so famously as the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

WHAT ONE RECENT CUSTOMER HAS SAID ABOUT THIS TOUR:
"I would just like to say how much we enjoyed our Tour of Venice, Florence & Rome and how excellent the Tour Director Christina and the driver Marino were. We will definitely travel with you again and recommend your services."
MR & MRS C. J. CROSSAN, ESSEX

DEPARTURES & PRICES
Prices in £s per person sharing a twin room

Sunday departures from September '98 to November '99	
'98 Sep 20, 27	£408
Oct 4, 11	£385
Oct 18, 25	£380
Nov 1, 8, 15	£355
Nov 22	£319
'99 Mar 7	£315
Mar 14	£319
Mar 21	£325
Mar 28	£368
Apr 4	£365
Apr 11, 18	£359
Apr 25	£365
May 2	£406
May 9, 16	£415
May 23, 30	£425
Jun 6, 13, 20, 27	£425
Jul 4, 11, 18, 25	£425
Aug 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	£429
Sep 5, 12	£425
Sep 19	£425
Sep 26	£415
Oct 3, 10, 17, 24	£399
Oct 31	£380
Nov 7, 14	£369
Nov 21	£336

Supplement for single room £105

FLIGHTS from GATWICK STANSTED BIRMINGHAM MANCHESTER GLASGOW

This is not a brochure. All offers and prices are subject to the terms and conditions of the Archers Fair Trading Charter and holiday information contained within the Archers 1999 brochure and accompanying literature. Full details will be sent upon request. All holidays and offers are subject to availability and can only be booked direct with Archers Tours Ltd.

TOUR & STAY OPTIONS

Why not add a relaxing 7 night stay to your tour. Choose from:

The beach resort of LIDO DI JESOLO or the beautiful LAKE GARDA from £84.

THE NEAPOLITAN RIVIERA – the beautiful resorts of Sorrento, Amalfi or Minori – or even the enchanting island of Capri from £104.

Call for details of our range of hotels and prices.

We offer a range of other escorted tours of Italy and other European countries including Spain, Portugal and Switzerland. See our brochure for full details.

Reservations Hotline Mon-Fri 9am-8pm; Sat 9am-5pm; Sun 10am-4pm
☎ 0181-466 6745
Brochureline ☎ 01233 211 100 (24hrs)
BROCHURE FEATURES TOURING HOLIDAYS OF 24 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE

Archers
BOOK DIRECT FOR BETTER VALUE
A member of the COSMOS Group, market leaders in escorted coach tours for over 30 years

BOOK DIRECT & SAVE ££s
CALL OUR BROCHURELINE FOR A BROCHURE OR COMPLETE THE COUPON AND POST TO: ARCHERS, PO Box 170, Ashford, Kent TN24 0ZX
NAME .....
ADDRESS .....
..... POSTCODE .....
TELEPHONE .....
Quote ref: E-9TI-1209-ZIP

Fresh bread and a jug of wine

Returning to northern Portugal after 17 years, **Tony Garrett** found it was much changed — but still charming and extremely beautiful

Val Garrett, left, camping in northern Portugal 17 years ago; the apartment, right, at Quinta de Gatão

The motorway from Lisbon to Oporto is a nightmare. Our little Ford struggles northwards as we try to overtake slow-moving lorries only to be brushed aside by fast-moving executives. It is extremely hot and I am beginning to wonder if coming back to the Vinho Verde-growing area of north Portugal is a good idea.

My wife, Val, and I once spent a wonderful fortnight here, touring on our motorcycle, but that was 17 years ago. We had loved the empty hills and civilised little towns and had promised ourselves that we would come back. We had not fulfilled the promise for various reasons, the main one of which is sprawled on the back seat of the car, listening to 1970s rock on his Walkman, seemingly oblivious to the traffic. Our son, Sam, was 16 a few days ago.

Another reason for disquiet is the landscape. Although we are heading east from Oporto it is still depressingly suburban. Lavish EU funds have poured into this part of the country aimed, apparently, at covering it in concrete, with brash new houses and factories sprouting up alongside the new roads and motorway. We finally pull into the little town of Penafiel. Reaching the tourist office just as it is closing, I am given a map and directions to Quinta de Gatão (Big Cat Farmhouse), where we will be spending the next ten days.

Following various B&B road signs, we bump down the track to the quinta, past a tennis court and stables, and park in the shade of a vine-covered pergola. Although it is now evening, it is still hot and we are delighted to be shown our cool, granite apartment in one of the old outbuildings. Better still, especially for Sam who is showing signs of melting, there is a swimming pool in the shade of a little chapel.

Quinta de Gatão was built in the early 18th century on an estate once owned by the Knights Templar, suppressed in Portugal in the 12th century. The main house is a square building of granite and white plaster. The ground floor was originally a store for farm produce and still has the great granite tanks once used for making Vinho Verde, the light, sharp wine for which the area is famous.

> ‘The river shows as flashes of kingfisher blue and bottle green’

The owners, Jorge and Madeleine Coelho de Silva, show us their beautiful first-floor rooms with vaulted ceilings, some of which they use for bed and breakfast guests (Jorge studied in Birmingham, which accounts both for the B&B signs and his excellent English).

The Coelho de Silvas look after us well: fresh bread appears at the door every morning; pots of delicious marmalade, one made of quince, one, amazingly, of tomatoes, are magically refilled; best of all, bottles of the estate's own wine appear in the fridge. Upstairs, Sam has made himself comfortable by strewing his bed with tape cassettes and is investigating Portuguese television.

Days at the house began to flow with a comfortable routine. For me, a languid swim to wake up, followed by breakfast on the upper terrace, which has shade until about ten. By this time Sam has surfaced, so the family embark upon a punishing regime of sporting activity: Val and I sometimes stroll down to take a look at the tennis court, sometimes we go up to the stable for a chat with the horse (he loves peppermints and seems as averse to rushing around in the heat as we are). A pleasant hour can then be wasted by the spring, a clear, cool stream diverted into a series of granite laundry basins, and we keep an eye open for the water snake that lives there. If we spot him, the excitement is so overwhelming that we need to sit down with some chá (the Portuguese for a cuppa poses few linguistic challenges). Sometimes I take my pencils out and spend a happy hour drawing on some corner of the estate, sometimes we stroll around the nearby lanes, through straggly hamlets of pretty houses populated by plump, if grubby, children and barking dogs.

Exploring our surroundings, we are relieved to rediscover much of the unspoilt beauty we remembered from our earlier visit. The countryside is hilly, rising to over 3,000ft in the Serra de Marão. There are also the deep valleys of the Douro, Tâmega and Sousa nearby. Winter rains from the Atlantic make it green, with forests of pine and eucalyptus; gardens are bright with hydrangeas, hollyhocks, hibiscus, mimosa hedges and a vivid blue convolvulus everywhere. The towns have (like us?) spread around the middle a bit since our last visit, with new suburbs of supermarkets and car showrooms. Town centres are mercifully unchanged, shops and restaurants look prosperous, old houses are being carefully restored.

Amarante is our favourite. It has narrow streets of granite houses and a graceful bridge over the River Tâmega overlooked by the church of St Gonçalo, a saint much interested in fertility and marriage. You can sit on a balcony of the Salon de Chá, or tea room, by the bridge and while away an hour with coffee and a St Gonçalo cake, a local speciality. On the other side of the bridge is the church and, in the old monastery, an art gallery and museum.

We drive home to the quinta on a back road looping high above the river. Looking down, the river shows through the trees as flashes of kingfisher blue and bottle green. On the other bank is a quinta with a red-tiled roof, a swimming pool and a landing stage on the lake-like stretch of water.

The next day the sky is grey so, to avoid driving, we catch the train to Oporto. Once in Oporto the rain starts in earnest and itinerant umbrella sellers appear on every corner. We duck into the Bolsa Palace, the former Stock Exchange, and are taken on a tour of its magnificent rooms. Built to show off Oporto's 19th-century prosperity (and, incidentally, give one in the eye to Lisbon), it is the most breathtaking series of salons and council chambers, grouped around a great glass-domed trading floor. The grand finale is the shimmering Arabian room, a gilded confection. Sam is impressed by all this, seeing it as a good background against which blood could be spilt in a computer game fantasy.

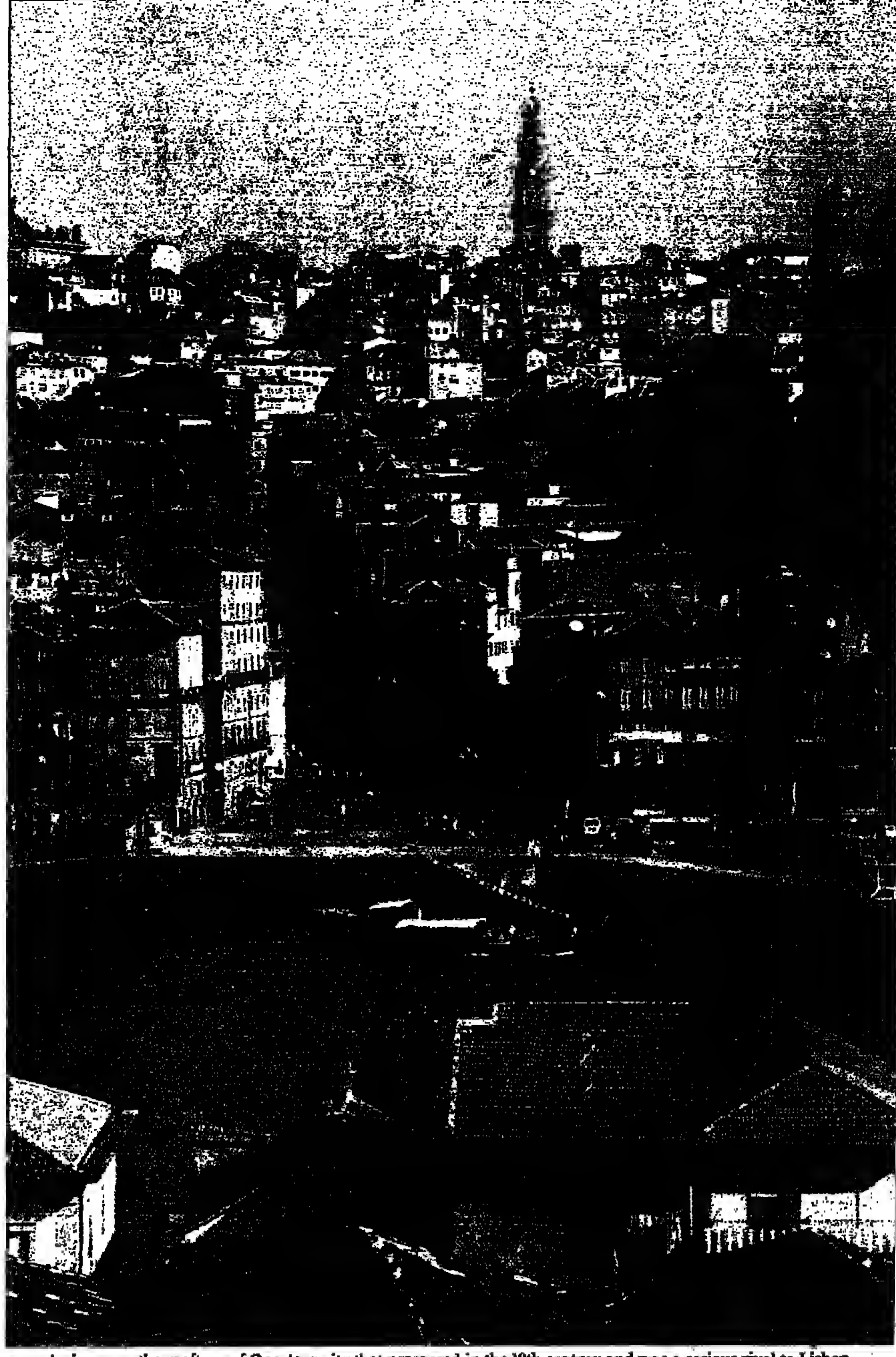
He is less impressed by our lack of enthusiasm for a visit to the city's Virgin Megastore, and finds our next visit, to the Museo Romantico, a poor second. Set in a beautiful old house in a park, it is dedicated to the memory of Charles, last King of Sardinia, who died there in 1849. Together with a French family, we are shown round by a guide whose sole language is Portuguese, so she is the only one who understands her commentary on the museum's contents.

Arriving back at the apartment, we find a note from Jorge inviting us to join him on a coach tour organised by Penafiel council. We are the only foreigners on a coach of cheerful locals who take our inability to communicate in good part and look after us well. Most older people here speak French and the younger ones English, but an English teacher on the trip avoids us lest her grasp of the language prove imperfect. First we visit the site of an old Celtic settlement near the Douro. The talk here is of a northern Iberian axis, the people of northern Portugal having more in common with their Spanish neighbours in Galicia than with Lisbon and the south.

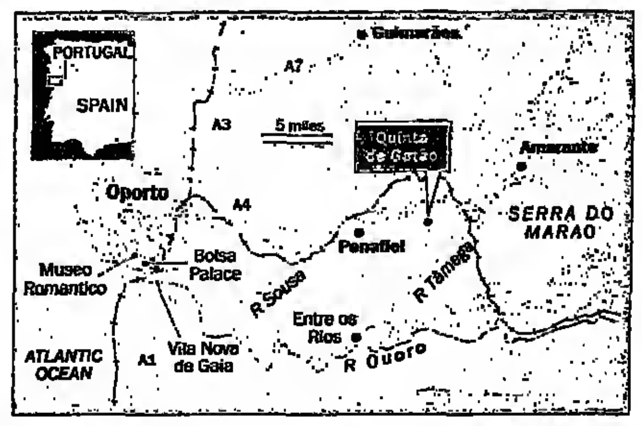
Then on to a Romanesque chapel and the lovely house of the chairman of the tourism committee. It is high on the hillside overlooking the river, so faded that we feel that the English general who was quartered there during the Peninsular War might come through the door at any moment.

Later still we are invited to a concert of fado in the little triangular square behind Penafiel's church of Our Lady of Ajuda. The songs are more varied than I expect, some Arab-influenced, others jauntier with a Latin-American feel. Jorge is not impressed: "In Coimbra, where I come from, the songs are about love and separation, not these Lisbon cabaret songs. And we do not clap."

But sitting outdoors while the sky goes from ultramarine to navy and the church's tile panels glitter in the floodlights, it seems quite perfect.



A view over the rooftops of Oporto, a city that prospered in the 19th century and was a serious rival to Lisbon



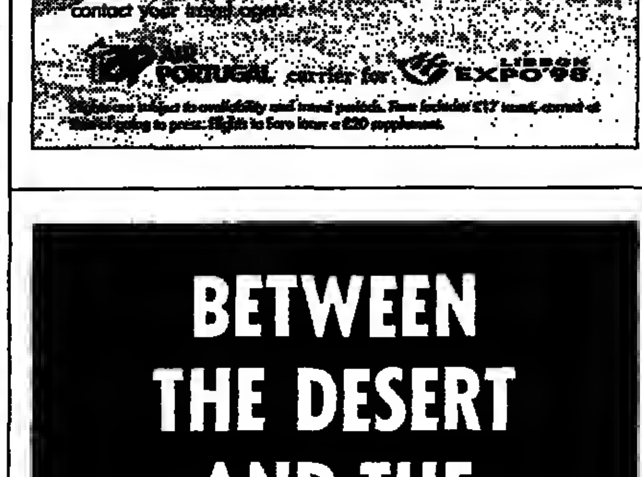
The River Tâmega at Amarante and church of St Gonçalo

FACT FILE

- Getting there: Tap Air Portugal (0171-828 0262) has fly-drives to Lisbon and Oporto from £149 until March 26 including flights and three days' car hire: two adults must travel together and trips should include a Saturday night. Flights only start from £124 to Lisbon and £148 to Oporto: departures from Heathrow.
- GB Airways (0345 222111), the franchise partner of British Airways, has flights from Gatwick to Lisbon for £112 plus £17.30 tax; tickets must be purchased before September 30 for travel from October 26. Returns to Oporto purchased before September 30 are from £142 plus £17.30 tax for travel between September 21 and October 25.
- Caravela Tours (0171-630 9223), the holiday arm of TAP Air Portugal, offers seven nights' B&B at the four-star Hotel Ofir from £365 per adult, £127 per child (2-12 years). Price includes car hire.
- Extra Holidays (0181-251 0970) has a selection of hotels on the Costa Verde from £325 per person per week including flights and B&B accommodation; children pay from £119.
- Further information from the Portuguese Tourism Office on 0171-494 1441, web site http://www.portugal.org/tourism
- Contact Quinta de Gatão direct by calling 00 351 55 732781 (also a fax number).

Exclusively Portugal
LISBON ~ ESTORIL
CASCAIS ~ COSTA VERDE
HOTELS & MANOR HOUSES
CALL FOR A BROCHURE
01223 568 904

SPECIAL OFFERS
UNREPEATABLE VALUE TO THE CARIBBEAN...
To celebrate the launch of Virgin Atlantic's new services to the beautiful islands of Barbados, St Lucia and Antigua, Kuoni have put together an unbelievable selection of great value holidays.
Three examples are shown below, but for full details see the insert enclosed with the Times this Saturday or call Kuoni sales on the number below.
BARBADOS
7 NIGHT HOLIDAY FROM
£399
25 SEP – 20 MAR
ST LUCIA
7 NIGHT HOLIDAY FROM
£399
27 SEP – 20 MAR
ANTIGUA
7 NIGHT HOLIDAY FROM
£479
27 SEP – 20 MAR
KUONI
virgin atlantic
CALL US ON
01306 747010
Office Hrs: Mon-Fri: 8am-8pm, Sat: 9am-5pm, Sun: 10am-4pm or see your local travel agent
OTHER DURATIONS ALSO AVAILABLE
Price per person in a twin includes: Return Economy flights with Virgin Atlantic, accommodation for number of nights stated, return transfers and UK departure tax. Booking conditions apply. Not included: Optional insurance (£33)/local departure tax.
Voted "Britain's Best Longhaul Tour Operator" for 16 consecutive years. ABTA V2682X ATOL 152



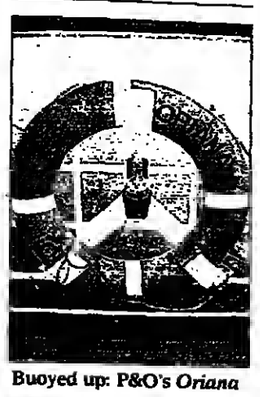
BETWEEN THE DESERT AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA.
With 365 days of sun, the Red Sea is the perfect cure for the winter blues. Prices from £239 per person for 7 nights B&B.
EILAT
CALL WST HOLIDAYS ON
0171 224 0504
ATOL 2488 ABTA V508X

THE PYRAMIDS & THE NILE
8 nights from £595
Thanks to a special flight arrangement with British Airways we are able to offer a direct non-stop wide-bodied Boeing 747 from London Heathrow to Cairo for the Pyramids at Giza and onward internal connections to the Nile at exceptionally advantageous prices. The arrangement includes full board and excursions whilst on the MS Serenade, transportation throughout, room and breakfast at the 5-star Mena House at the Pyramids, excursions to the Pyramids, the Great Sphinx and the Egyptian Museum to inspect the treasures of Tutankhamun.
3 days at the Pyramids & 4-day Nile Cruise
Itinerary: Fly London to Cairo with British Airways for the Pyramids at Giza (3 nights at the Hotel Mena House including excursion to the Pyramids, Great Sphinx and Egyptian Museum housing the treasures of Tutankhamun), internal flight to Luxor (4-day Nile cruise on board the 5-star MS Serenade, visiting the ancient sites at Aswan, Kom Ombo, Edfu and the Valley of Kings and Queens at Luxor) return via Aswan to Cairo for the Saturday morning British Airways flight to London Heathrow.
3-day Nile Cruise, 4 days at the Pyramids, Sphinx, Cairo & Alexandria
Itinerary: Fly London to Cairo and connect directly to Aswan and board the MS Serenade for a three-day Nile cruise (visiting Aswan, Kom Ombo, Edfu, Luxor and the Valley of the Kings and Queens). Fly Luxor to Cairo for four days at the Mena House, Giza, at the Pyramids, visit the Pyramids, Great Sphinx and Egyptian Museum, visit to Alexandria by express train to see the famous Corniche, the site of Alexander's Lighthouse, and newly discovered area of Cleopatra finds. Return to the Mena House in the evening by express train and fly on Saturday morning from Cairo to London Heathrow with British Airways.
DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES
1998/99 Fridays - per person in a twin room/cabin
September 18, 25 - £625.00
October 2, 9, 16 - £650.00
November 6, 13, 20, 27 - £595.00
December 18, 25 - £595.00
January 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - £595.00
Single Supplement £195.00
Upper decks supplement £65.00
Included: transportation throughout, full board and excursions while on cruise, room and breakfast at the Mena House Hotel, Pyramids excursion, UK departure tax. Not included: travel insurance, visa procurement, tipping. Our current Conditions of Booking (on request) shall apply to all reservations.
0171-616 1000
VJV
VOYAGES JULES VERNE
21 Dorset Square, London NW1 6QG
Travel Promotions Ltd. ABTA V1661 ATOL 2838
Internet http://www.vjv.co.uk
Our offices are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 8pm and at weekends for telephone reservations from 9am to 5pm. For personal visitors our office hours are 9am to 5pm weekdays only.

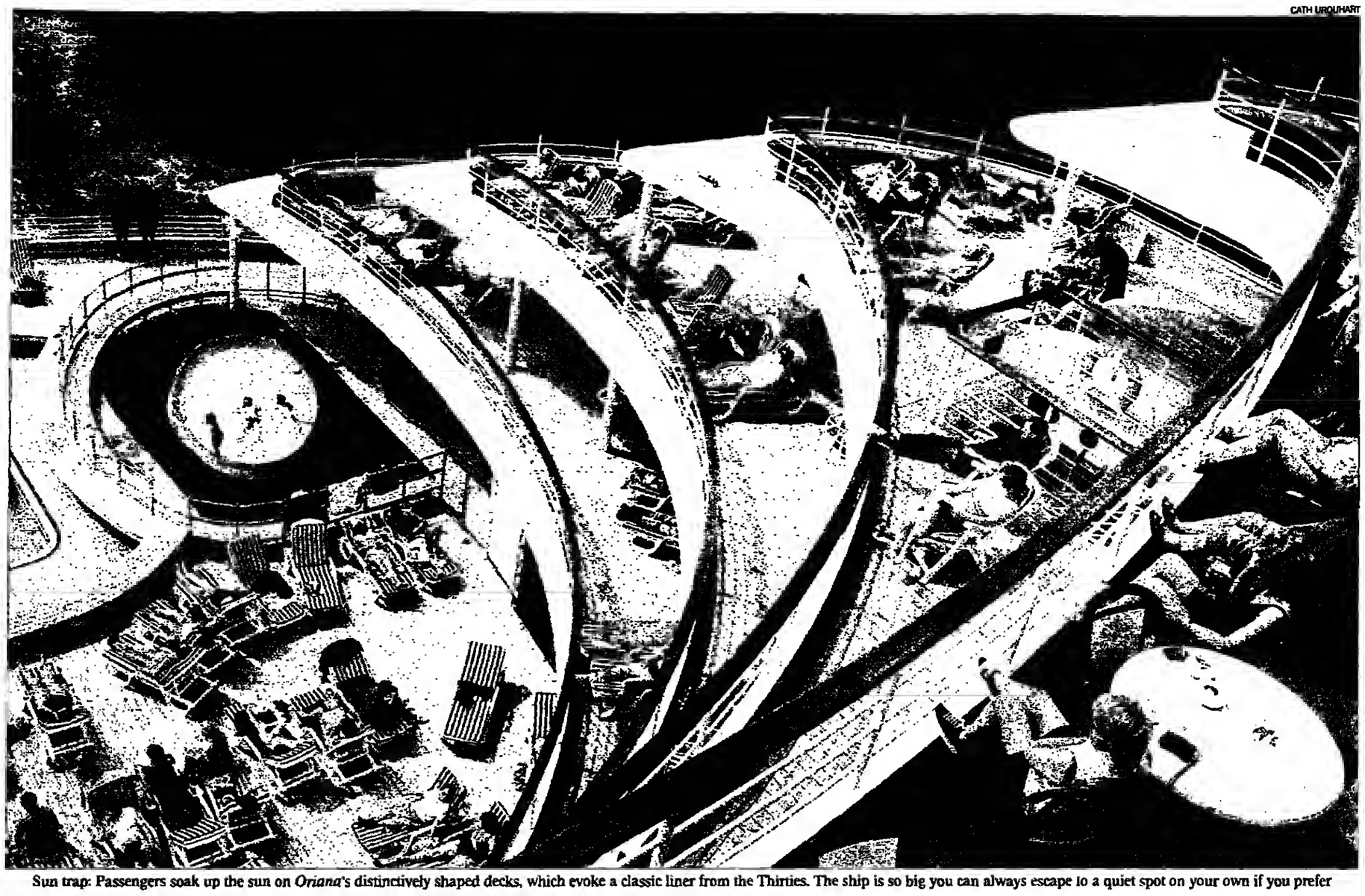
هكذا من الأهل

Reduced breaks for a quick sail

Cath Urquhart tries a weekend cruise to see if ship life suits her



Buoyed up: P&O's *Oriana*



CATH URQUHART

Sun trap: Passengers soak up the sun on *Oriana*'s distinctively shaped decks, which evoke a classic liner from the Thirties. The ship is so big you can always escape to a quiet spot on your own if you prefer

WHERE DID MY WEEKEND GO?

THE popularity of mini-cruises is growing, as they are both a novel way to spend a long weekend, and give you a chance to see if you would enjoy a longer cruise. So I took my mother, Diana, on a short trip to the Low Countries to see if we liked P&O's three-year-old liner, *Oriana*.

FRIDAY

1.10pm: I meet Diana at Waterloo Station to catch the train for Southampton and am a little annoyed to find that she is a better packer than I am, and has hardly any luggage. She is particularly looking forward to this trip, as she last went on a cruise in the 1950s, aged 12. The boat went from Marseille to Tilbury. She had to share a cabin with three other girls, while her parents shared with another couple. P&O has assured us things are less spartan these days.

2.50pm: We arrive at the terminal and our bags are whisked away by porters. Within ten minutes we have our boarding cards and are waiting in a large departure lounge, where a shop is selling the book of the film *Titanic*.

3.10pm: We are taken to our cabin, a small twin with a compact bathroom, shower and loo. It's modern, clean, and functional, but a little box-like. It hardly conjures up the romance of cruising.

3.45pm: Our cabin attendant, Neves, introduces himself and asks what time we would like our coffee in the morning. Neves, like many P&O staff, is from Goa, where P&O is one of the largest employers.

4.20pm: We explore the ship. There seems to be hardly anyone around yet.

4.35pm: At the Riviera pool two people are already lying on the sunbeds.

4.48pm: Around the Crystal swimming pool (the water temperature is 38°C) families are having tea and sandwiches. Then we realise that the Conservatory dining room has a big spread on offer — tea, scones, sausage rolls, sandwiches, cakes. It seems rude not to join in. Over tea, Diana tells me a cautionary tale about a distant relative who put her children, unaccompanied, on a six-week cruise from South Africa to London in the 1950s. They put on so much weight that no one recognised them on their arrival.

5.30pm: We go to our muster station to learn what to do in emergencies and how to put our lifejackets on.

5.55pm: On the quay below, a marching band plays as we set sail. At the Peninsular Restaurant Balbir, the head waiter, introduces himself. I choose a vegetarian menu of avocado, followed by carrot soup, then vegetable tempura. Competent, if not inspiring, and very promptly served.

11pm: We're both feeling tired so, after a few drinks with new friends, we head for our cabin.

SATURDAY

8am: Neves brings us coffee in bed. Through our cabin's large window we can see one of the Channel Islands — we will be cruising around them today. *Oriana* could complete our itinerary in far less time than four days, so we have to kill some time at sea.

8.50am: We have a self-service breakfast in the Conservatory, which is very busy.

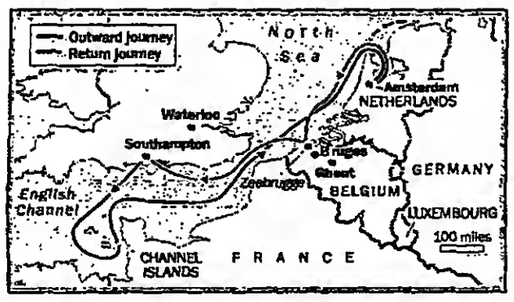
10am: As we have the whole day at sea, we book ourselves into the beauty salon for the morning. I have a manicure and pedicure and emerge £32 lighter, but with enviably glamorous toe and fingernails.

11.50am: I find a sunbed by the Riviera pool and settle down with a good book and my sunglasses. The pool area is enclosed by glass panels so it's a real sun trap. Drinks (not included in the cruise price) are brought to us from the bar.

1.30pm: The sea air has made us hungry and we fetch a curry lunch from the Conservatory. We eat off trays on our sunbeds.

2pm: A disco starts up by the Riviera, shattering the peace of the afternoon.

2.10pm: Organised water games for adults are starting up in the Riviera and the music is so loud that we retreat to the next deck and find sunbeds in a quiet spot for the day.

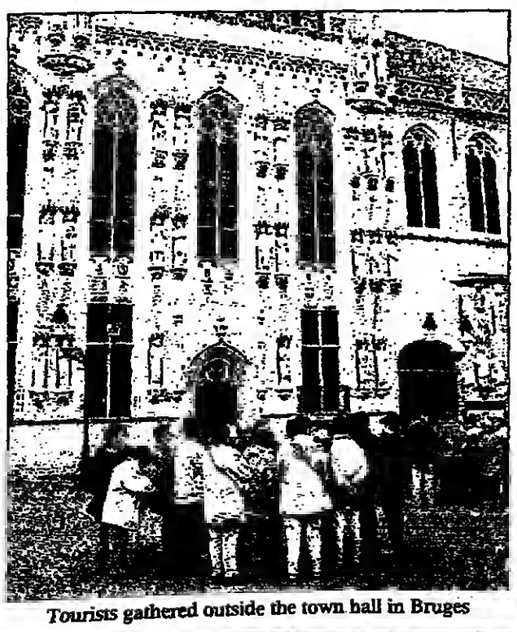


7.45pm: I've lost Diana but met some new friends in Anderson's bar, a cosy but smart pub which is rapidly gaining a reputation, the regular cruisers tell me, as one of the best drinking holes afloat.

8.15pm: At the Captain's drinks party in the Crow's Nest bar I find Diana, who is chatting to Kay and Terry, a couple from Yeovil on their second *Oriana* cruise.

9.30pm: In the loos by the Crow's Nest bar a woman is sponging down her smart ivory suit. "First I put deodorant in my hair instead of hairspray, and now this. You would think, at nearly 50, I could learn to put my food in my mouth," she grumbles.

9.40pm: The Captain's welcome dinner in the Peninsular Restaurant; the food is definitely better than last night. There is plenty of choice, and I go for smoked salmon, Stilton and leek soup, champagne sorbet, sea-bass and strawberries. We hope we have the chance to work it all off tomorrow.



Tourists gathered outside the town hall in Bruges

Diana Urquhart pauses on a bridge in Amsterdam to take a photograph

SUNDAY

8am: Awoken by Neves with our coffee. We arrived in Amsterdam overnight. Out of our window we can see the city, and a windmill, as if to remind us we're in Holland.

10am: We take the ten-minute shuttle bus from the port to Amsterdam's Central Station. We have both visited Amsterdam before so we decide to do our own thing today, rather than join an organised trip.

11am: We walk up from Central Station to Dam Square, stopping to look at the Sunday market, and then on through the centre of Amsterdam to the Van Gogh Museum.

12.20pm: It's heaving; there are queues in front of each of the best-known paintings so we go the wrong way round, starting at the top floor, to see things more easily. Van Gogh left about 900 paintings and 1,200 drawings; the museum has 200 of the paintings and 500 of the drawings, the largest collection of Van Goghs in the world. It is stunning, but Sunday is not the best time to visit.

1.25pm: Having fought our way out, we stop for lunch at a nearby café, De Spiegel, and sit in the sun with sandwiches and beer for an hour. It starts raining, so we decide it's time to go shopping. Just down the street are craft and jewellery shops that distract us for some time.

3.30pm: Needing another coffee break, I persuade Diana to try an Amsterdam "coffee house" where dope smoking is allowed. We head for Kadinsky, a central and friendly place where we stick to coffee and secondary inhalation.

4.35pm: We're back at Nieuwe Kerk, on Dam Square, and spend half an hour at the World Press photo exhibition.

5.15pm: Back at the shuttle bus stop from where we are whisked back to *Oriana*.

7.40pm: In full finery, we're in the Crow's Nest for a drink — we feel cosy watching the rain beat against the windows.

8.30pm: Over dinner the conversation turns to the success of *Titanic*. A fellow passenger has heard that, in America, a new series of ships will have a special platform built so passengers can imitate the Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio pose – arms outstretched – without any danger of falling off the prow. A passenger on a ship in Norway has already died doing this.

11pm: From the Crow's Nest bar we watch the lights of Amsterdam slip away. We move up on to the front of the deck to watch for longer, but it's freezing cold so we don't last long.

MONDAY

9.15am: We're on the coach for our guided tour of Ghent and Bruges with our guides, Paul and Bernadette.

10.20am: We arrive in Ghent and make our way over St Michael Bridge to St Bavo's Cathedral to look at the painted panels of the *Adoration of the Mystic Lamb*, dating from 1432. It is the first depiction of a nude Adam and Eve in western art. The colours are still wonderfully bright.

11.45am: We head back to the coach to set off for Bruges.

12.30pm: Our lunch stop is at Het Bargehuis in Bruges, where we're served a passable three-course meal of seafood salad, turkey, and pudding.

2pm: We are guided around the pretty centre of Bruges before taking a 20-minute trip on a tourist boat around the canals. Paul explains the town's history as we walk through to the main square and admire some of the town's oldest buildings: the Gothic town hall and court of justice. We fall in love with pretty Bruges, its winding streets and old town houses. Diana plans to bring my father here for a weekend.

3.30pm: Shopping and more coffee.

5pm: We return to the ship.

7.30pm: We fit in a final visit to the spa for facials, before changing for drinks, followed by another late dinner.

11.45pm: To the casino, which is small and hot. There are crowds around the blackjack and roulette tables, making it rather hard to join a game. I squeeze on to a blackjack table, and, to my great surprise, come away a few bob up. A good way to end the weekend. (We leave tomorrow morning.)

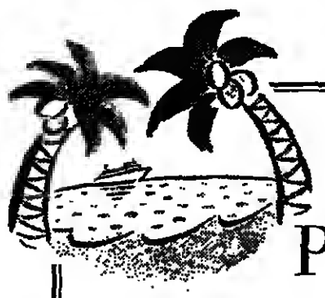
VERDICT

It took most of the weekend to find our way around such a huge ship, and we were certainly never bored. The ship's staff were friendly and the service excellent, and the cabins are clean and comfortable, if a little uniform and "plastic" compared to the classic older liners. The tour of Ghent and Bruges was a little rushed. In retrospect we might have stuck to Bruges and explored on our own. But a long weekend at sea is a great way to find out if you like cruising.

Stay on course: guidebooks for sale on a Bruges street

CRUISING FACTS

- *Cath Urquhart travelled* with P&O Cruises (0171-800 2222).
- The next mini-cruise on *Oriana* is a five-night trip, departing on October 1, from Southampton to Spain and France. It costs from £595, *based on four sharing an* inside cabin: all meals included. The price for two people sharing an inside cabin is £795. There are stop-offs at La Coruña in Spain and La Pallice, a small port next to La Rochelle in France, and Brest. Excursions at each destination cost about £50 for a day and £25 for half a day.
- The next four-night mini-cruise departing from Southampton and stopping at Amsterdam and Bruges leaves on October 2 1999. Prices are from £495 based on four sharing, and £645for two sharing. The Ghent and Bruges day trip costs £52.



15%off*
P&O winter cruises
to the Caribbean.
(As if the British winter wasn't encouragement enough).

This winter, go somewhere where the only ice is in your drinks.

Our wide range of two week cruises will take you to such Caribbean islands as Barbados and Curacao – and then beyond, to perhaps New Orleans or the Amazon Basin.

P&O Cruises

Wherever you choose, the elegant atmosphere on board Victoria will ensure you travel in the best of British style.

And if that's not incentive enough, we're offering a 15% discount* if you book now.

Has the Caribbean sun gone to our heads?

For this and other unbelievable offers see your local ABTA travel agent.

*We have set aside cabins at selected grades on cruises £31 to £39 which are available for the above discount. Once sold the fare for the grade and cruise will revert to brochure fare. Not available at every grade. Subject to availability.

The cat's whiskers: Sprite

TRAVELLERS' BULLETIN BOARD

For sale: a slice of history

Simon Grosset reports on Christie's sale of Arctic and Antarctic memorabilia

Christie's is expecting keen interest in its fifth Exploration and Travel sale next week from the increasing numbers of travellers to Antarctica. The sale, on Thursday, will feature more than 200 items from great expeditions to both the Arctic and Antarctic.

Works of art, memorabilia and documents of the past 300 years have come up for sale from private and public collections all over the world. Prices are expected to range from £400 for a brass coat hook from Captain Scott's cubicle in his Antarctic hut, to £250,000 for a 1785 painting by John Weber (an artist on Captain Cook's third trip to the Pacific) of Krakatau, the small island which was subsequently destroyed by a violent volcanic eruption in 1883.

"We're never quite sure what some of these items will fetch," said Nicholas Lambourn of Christie's. He said that last year Christie's sold a piece of cocoa box and a one-inch square piece of wood from the ship *Endurance* — which took Sir Ernest Shackleton on his ill-fated attempt to cross the South Pole — for £14,000. Christie's had estimated the pieces to fetch £400 together.

"Travellers to the Antarctic — and there are many of them nowadays — get the bug, and they want to buy any kind of memorabilia from the early expeditions," said Mr Lambourn. "They feel that Shackleton's or Scott's charisma has rubbed off on these objects, and that's what they're really buying."

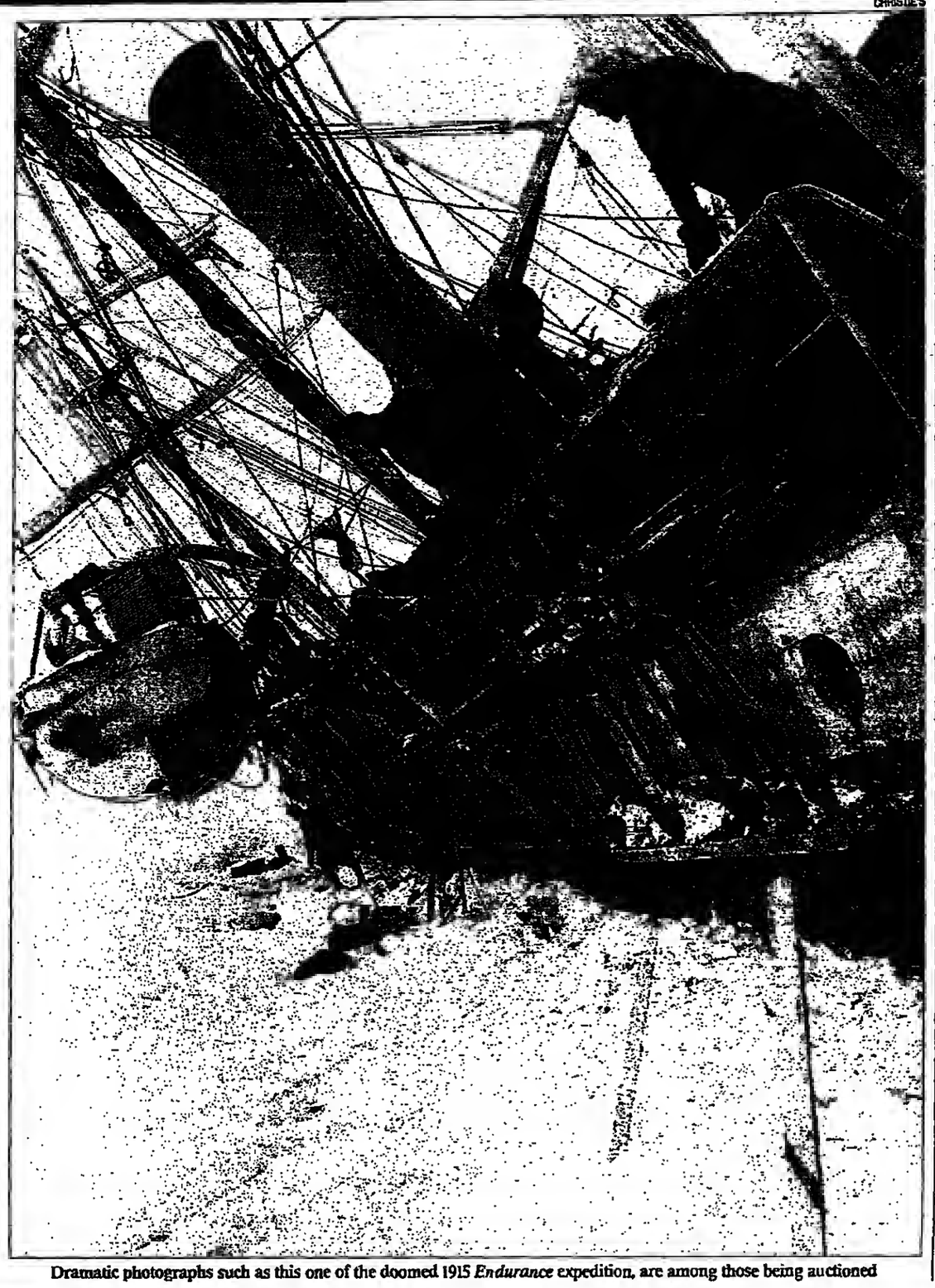
As well as numerous paintings and photographs from Scott's doomed trip to the South Pole, there are artefacts recovered in 1957 from his base camp hut. It wasn't until after the Second World War that attempts were made to check on the condition of various base camps and huts used by the early explorers. Most were found untouched, with stores of food in good condition, reindeer hide sleeping bags still on the bunks and kitchen utensils hanging on the walls.

Some of the more bizarre items in the sale include leather sledging traces from Scott's 1902 Discovery Expedition, a glass beaker, a crucible and a medicine bottle from his 1910 expedition, and two pairs of woollen mittens from the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition of 1955 (whose members recovered some of the items in the sale).

A 1909 wax cylinder recording of Shackleton's voice is expected to sell for more than £1,000. He describes his attempt to reach the South Pole, with sledges pulled by ponies, which were then used for food as the explorers' rations ran out.

● *The items in the sale are on view at Christie's, 8 King Street, London W1, tomorrow from 2pm to 5pm, and Monday to Wednesday. Call 0171-389 2153 for more details.*

CHRISTIE'S



Dramatic photographs such as this one of the doomed 1915 *Endurance* expedition, are among those being auctioned

Elvis lives – in Croatia

TRIP WIRES

by Cath Urquhart

TRAVEL EDITOR

DID ELVIS play a gig in Croatia about 35 years ago? For when I was in Dubrovnik last week, I met two 30-something chaps who were both called Elvis, because, as one put it resignedly, "my mother was a big Tom Jones fan".

Elvis No 1 made up for having a silly name by being one of the best tour guides I have encountered. During three hot and tiring hours walking around the compact Old City, we were never bored — Elvis had just the right mix of amusing anecdote and historical snippets to keep us enthralled.

Starting at the Pile Gate in the western wall of the city, he took us to two monasteries, the Rector's Palace and the Baroque cathedral, telling us of the dark street corners that were filled with stone to prevent thieves lurking in them; the arrow slits now home to pigeons; the horse troughs hacked out of the beautiful cloisters in the Dominican Monastery by uncouth Austrian soldiers in the 19th century. He pointed out the city's artistic and cultural gems, which include a couple of Titians, a piece of wood supposedly from the cross of Jesus, and the world's oldest still-functioning pharmacy, built in 1317, within the walls of the Franciscan Monastery. It's the most beautiful place in which I've ever stocked up on suncream.

ELVIS No. 2 runs the Panorama Restaurant, tucked away up the maze of alleys to the south of the city. True to its name, it has a stunning view over the Old City and while I did not sample the fare, I spied the most enormous lobster I have ever seen, almost a yard long, sitting on a table awaiting its fate.

I GAVE the giant lobster a miss as I had just had an excellent lunch of seafood risotto and local Posip wine at Dundo Maroje, a restaurant off Placa, the main street. Food and prices were almost too good to be true: a vast plate of Dalmatian smoked ham, or pasta with langoustines, for £4.50; fish dishes for £3-£6. What with the Posip and the free brandies dispensed by the friendly owners, it was with difficulty that I mustered the energy to walk the still-complete City Walls.

INEVITABLY conversations in Dubrovnik turn to the war, and in particular the ferocious shelling that reduced parts of the Old City to rubble, reaching its climax on December 6, 1991. There was no "don't mention the war" atmosphere — people were in fact keen to tell their stories. I picked up a copy of a locally published title, *Dubrovnik in War*, and whenever I produced it locals gathered around to point out their house in the background to photos of the shelling. A boatman picked out his boat in a picture of the burning harbour — it had seemingly escaped unscathed. But as we sailed out of Dubrovnik, he showed me the shrapnel holes in the awning.

THAT the Cunard liner *QE2* is making her first-ever call at Dubrovnik on October 28 says everything about the city's recovery. Before the war, some 300 cruise ships would call at Dubrovnik each year; last year about 90 called in, and this year it will be up to 140. Even the last vestiges of Communist-era red tape are disappearing. I met a Kenyan couple who had been told they could not leave their cruise ship to enter Dubrovnik because they did not have visas. After the Croatian official had said his piece and left, they simply slipped ashore — and no one raised an eyebrow.

TRAVELLERS' TIP

TAKE a lightweight wedge to place under your door if you are staying in a hotel in which you feel uneasy about security. Skeleton keys could allow dishonest members of staff access to rooms. I feel more relaxed when I know my door can't be opened easily from outside. — *Diana Proud, Winchester*

Send your suggestion, in no more than 75 words, on a postcard to: Travellers' Tip, The Times *Travel Desk, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN, with your name, address and telephone number. If yours is published, you will win the Lonely Planet guidebook and phrase book of your choice.*

Switzerland's big drink

TICKETS go on sale this week for one of the great Bacchanalian events of the century, the Fête des Vignerons, or Winegrowers' Festival, in Vevey, Switzerland.

Next August, some half a million visitors are expected to descend on this small winegrowing community on the shores of Lake Geneva for two weeks of lavish theatrical productions, parades, music, dance and, of course, wine drinking.

Vevey is usually overshadowed by its more glamorous neighbour, Montreux, but the Winegrowers' Festival, organised by the 400-year old Confrérie des Vignerons (the fraternity of wine growers) is expected to attract visitors from all over the world. The production is so complex and at £18 million, so expensive, that it has only been staged five times a century since its origins in the 17th century as a parade and banquet.

The last one was in 1977. The only reason it can still take place in its original form, an outdoor pageant in the market square, is that Vevey happens to have the second largest market square in Europe, after Lisbon, seating 16,000 people on specially-built grandstands.

Professional composers, script writers and costumiers have been working for two years on the production but most of the 4,600 actors, singers and dancers are local people, who will spend every weekend for the next 11 months rehearsing. Everyone involved has to pay between £85 and £480 for their costume.

Twice-daily performances embrace Greco-Roman mythology, pagan rituals, classical and contemporary music, mime, folklore and dance, all set against the backdrop of Lake Geneva and the Swiss Alps. Each show is followed by a huge town festival and on four days, the whole cast parades through the streets. On the morning of August 11, there's a spookily atmospheric performance, The Reconciliation of the Living and the Dead, as the sun slides into a 96 per cent eclipse at midday.

The Fête des Vignerons takes place from July 29 to August 15, 1999. Tickets cost from £28 to £111 for the performances and £6.50 for the street parade. The town festival is free.

For hotel booking details and ticket information, contact Switzerland Tourism on 0171-734 1921 or the Vevey Tourist Office on 0041 21 922 2020. Tickets are bookable on website http://www.fetedesvignerons.ch

SUE BRYANT

PETRA · DAMASCUS · ISTANBUL · SUEZ CANAL · DELPHI · GALILEE · LUXOR, KARNAK & VALLEY OF THE KINGS · JERUSALEM & BETHLEHEM · BEIRUT & BAALBECK · ATHENS · CAIRO & THE PYRAMIDS · WADI RUM · NICOSIA · PALMYRA · ST. CATHERINE'S MONASTERY · BYBLOS · CRAC DES CHEVALIERS · CORINTH CANAL

CRUISE THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AND RED SEA ON AEGEAN I

The Magnificent Treasury at Petra

The Theatre at Ephesus

St. Catherine's Monastery, Sinai

The Western Wall, Jerusalem

GREECE - EGYPT - JORDAN - ISRAEL - SYRIA - LEBANON - CYPRUS - TURKEY

Follow in the footsteps of the Crusaders, St. Paul, the Pharaohs, Moses, Lawrence of Arabia, Alexander the Great, Greek gods, Roman emperors and Turkish sultans..... Discover the Holy Land and the many contrasting civilisations, both ancient and modern, that surround the Eastern Mediterranean and Red Sea. Join Voyages of Discovery this Autumn or next Spring and give your mind as well as your body a treat on a cruise holiday to remember.

CLASSICAL DISCOVERY: 30TH OCTOBER - 10TH NOVEMBER 1998
Kusadasi, Turkey - At Sea - Tartus, Syria - Beirut, Lebanon - Larnaca, Cyprus - Ashdod, Israel - Port Said, Egypt - Transit Suez Canal - Safaga, Egypt (Overnight) - Aqaba, Jordan - Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt.

RED SEA EXPLORER: 17TH - 27TH NOVEMBER 1998
Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt (Overnight) - Aqaba, Jordan - Safaga, Egypt - At Sea - Suez, Egypt - Transit Suez Canal - Ashdod, Israel - At Sea - Kusadasi, Turkey - Piraeus, Greece.

RED SEA DISCOVERY: 15TH -25TH APRIL 1999
Heraklion, Crete - At Sea - Tartus, Syria - Larnaca, Cyprus - Ashdod, Israel - Port Said, Egypt - Transit Suez Canal - Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt - Aqaba, Jordan - Safaga, Egypt (Overnight)

THREE CONTINENTS & TWO CANALS:
25TH APRIL - 7TH MAY 1999
Safaga, Egypt (Overnight) - Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt - Aqaba, Jordan - Suez, Egypt - Transit Suez Canal - Haifa, Israel - At Sea - Kusadasi, Turkey - Istanbul, Turkey - At sea - Return transit of Corinth Canal & Itea, Greece - Piraeus, Greece.

We also have limited availability for independent passengers on our separate programme of one week educational cruises visiting Egypt, Israel, Turkey, Cyprus, Greece & The Greek Islands.

EASTERN TREASURES: 23RD - 30TH OCTOBER 1998
EASTER IN THE HOLY LAND: 1ST - 8TH APRIL 1999
MEDITERRANEAN DISCOVERY: 8TH - 15TH APRIL 1999

Great value fares...from just £429 for 7 nights, £699 for 10 nights, including return flights from Gatwick or Manchester, all port and airport taxes, all meals and entertainment on board, an informative programme of talks on the places we visit and overseas transfers.

For further details call us now:
24 hour brochureline
01293 433041

VOYAGES OF DISCOVERY
Voyages of Discovery is a trading name of Talongrove Travel Limited

Première House, Betts Way, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 2GB
Tel: 01293 433030
Fax: 01293 433036

ABTA 38972

Orlando gets better

The bizarre double baggage retrieval at the Florida airport is being abandoned, says **Simon Veness**

BELATED good news for British tourists to Orlando International Airport — a $1.2 billion (£750 million) expansion scheme is under way to eradicate the irritating and time-consuming double baggage retrieval system and the congestion at immigration.

Orlando International is one of America's fastest-growing airports, with some 28 million passengers using it annually, and the major carriers from Britain are British Airways and Virgin Atlantic. However, British charter airlines, such as Britannia, Caledonian and Leisure Air, have switched in the past two years to Sanford Airport, 30 miles to the north, in a bid to reduce the arrival inconveniences.

Some tour operators may be tempted back to Orlando International by the changes, as it is a 25-minute drive from International Drive, the centre of Orlando, whereas Sanford is a 50-minute drive away.

Orlando International will add a new South Terminal to more than double current capacity to 70 million annually, and will have extra facilities to process international passengers. It will also end the bizarre system which requires transatlantic passengers to collect their luggage twice before leaving the airport, for security reasons.

Other improvements include the completion of a fourth satellite arm to the North Terminal, improvements in baggage handling, increased parking and more space for car hire firms. However, the improvements will not be immediate. Improvements to the North Terminal should be completed by summer 1999, but the South Terminal project is likely to take three to four years.

Born free, pay to stay

TOURISTS will be able to immerse themselves in the scenery of Joy Adamson's book and film Born Free when a lodge opens in Kenya's Meru National Park next June. Elsa's Kopje lodge will be the only accommodation in Meru National Park, which is home to abundant wildlife including lions, elephant and buffalo as well as 300 species of birds.

Few tourists currently visit Meru, in the north of Kenya, because it is difficult to reach. But more tour operators are expected to offer visits to the park when the lodge — on the site of conservationist George Adamson's orginal camp — opens. It will offer game drives and walking as well as fishing and rafting on the Tana River.

MARRAKESH REVISITED

7 or 14 nights in Marrakesh from £295.00
at the 3-star Hotel Amine or upgrade to the 5-star Semiramis for £10 per night

From November we shall be inaugurating a new flight service from London Gatwick to Seville and onwards to Marrakesh. The period November to April is the ideal time to visit Morocco away from the baking heat of summer to the gentler rays of the winter sun in the foot hills of the Atlas Mountains at Marrakesh.

ITINERARY

Fly from London Gatwick with a brief stop at Seville to Marrakesh and spend 7 nights at the 3-star Hotel Amine, located close to the entrance of the Imperial City in an oasis like setting amongst majestic 100-year-old palm trees. In this exotic setting is the well laid out swimming pool and the 174 well-appointed rooms are air-conditioned with full en suite facilities, telephone, satellite TV, and balcony. The public facilities include a lovely restaurant, sun terraces, bars and comfortable lounge.

You may upgrade to the 5-star Hotel Semiramis located in a quiet position with the swimming pool area set in lush gardens. The 181 rooms are large with full en suite facilities, satellite TV, telephone, mini bar, balcony, and air-conditioning. There are four restaurants, the Aladdin bar which opens to the garden, two tennis courts, golf practice as well as a splendid lounge.

DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES
Mondays 1998/99 - per person at the Hotel Amine
Nov 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 £295 - Dec 7, 14, 21*, 28* £295
January 4, 11 £295 - January 18, 25 £315
February 1, 8, 15 £325 - February 22 £365
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29* £330 - April 5, 12, 19 £340
*Christmas, New Year & Easter flight supplement £95.
Single suppl. £70 per week - Extra Week £180 twin.
Upgrade to the Hotel Semiramis - add £10 per night.

Inclusions: transportation throughout, half board accommodation in Marrakesh, services of local guides, UK departure tax. Not included: overseas airport tax, travel insurance, tips. Our current Conditions of Booking (available on request) shall apply to all reservations.

0171-616 1000

VOYAGES JULES VERNE
21 Dorsel Square, London NW1 6QG
Travel Promotions Ltd. ABTA V1661 ATOL 1833B
Internet http://www.vjv.co.uk
Our offices are open Mon-Fri from 9am-8pm and at weekends and Bank Holiday Monday for telephone reservations from 9am-5pm. For personal visitors our office hours are 9am-5pm weekdays only.

هكذا من الأصل

TRAVELLERS' BULLETIN BOARD

TRAVEL TIPS by Jill Crawshaw

TRAVEL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Fine art apartment

IF you like the idea of renting one of Venetian Apartments' (0181-878 1130) properties in Venice, don't bother with the brochure; just go along to the Canaletto Exhibition at the National Gallery.

Track down the painting of *The Stonemason's Yard*, and you can see your prospective pad if you look carefully at the building with the arched windows on the right. It's now a luxury apartment, the Campo San Vidal, and it comes complete with marble bathrooms, Jacuzzis and air-conditioning. It costs £1,425 for a week and sleeps up to five people — cheaper than some hotels.

Those who prefer literary associations can rent the Sitwell family's private 16th-century home with canal views and antique four-poster beds, the Casa dell' Albero. It costs £1,495 per week and sleeps six.

● The Canaletto Exhibition is at the National Gallery until October 11, then moves on to York and Swansea. Admission is free. Open Monday-Saturday 10am to 6pm (Wed to 8pm); Sunday noon to 6pm.

Take the plunge

OVER-50s who want to fathom the secrets of the deep, without getting caught up in the often macho culture of young divers, can try new learn-to-snorkel holidays in the Red Sea at the resorts of Sharm ef Sheik or the less-than-lovely Hurghada, Egypt.

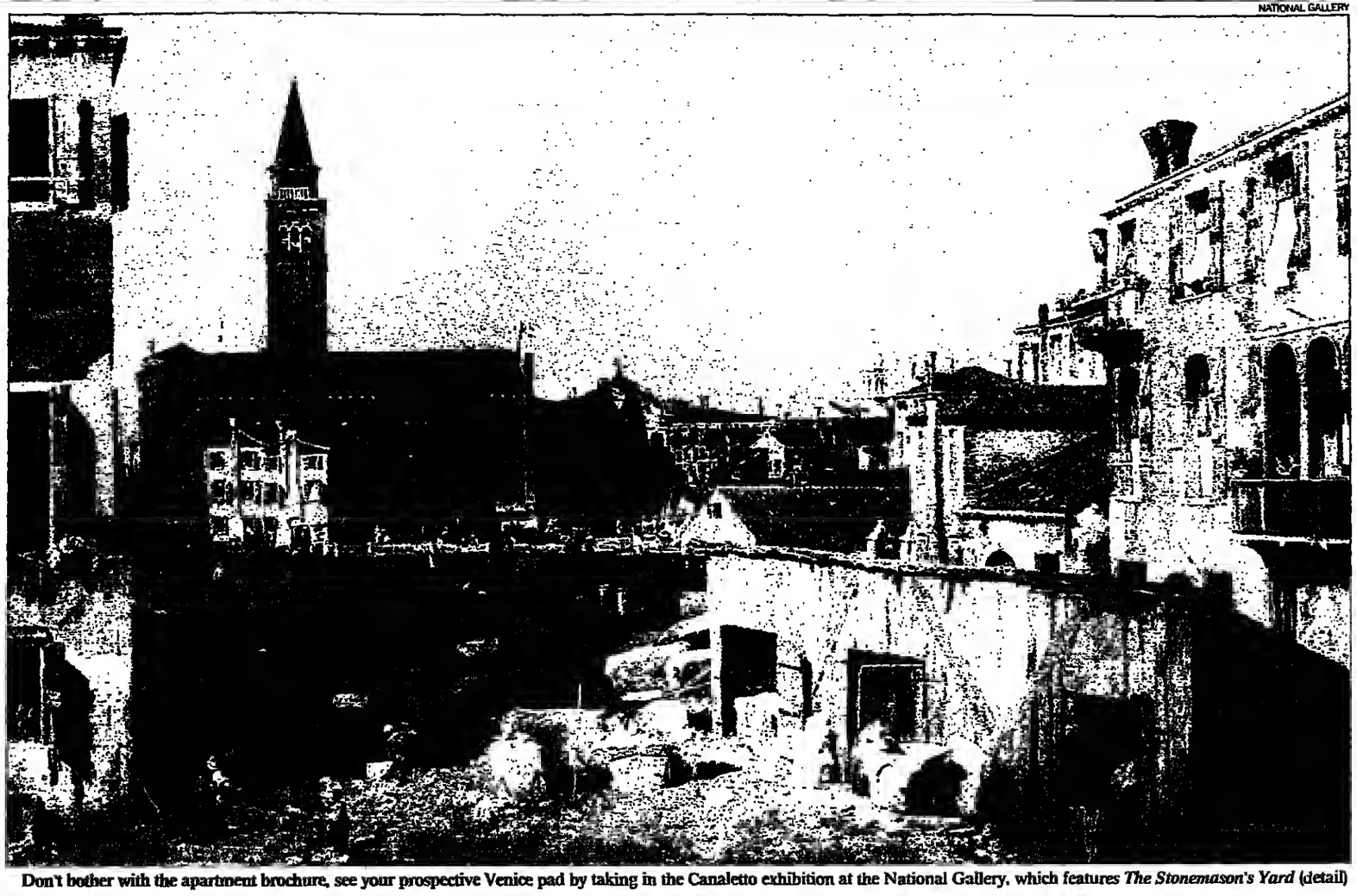
Regal Holidays (01353 778096) organises the snorkelling weeks in November and December and they cost £349 for flights, B&B, five days' snorkelling, tuition and hire of equipment. Anyone who wants to plunge further can take a free try-dive.

Kipling capers

RUDYARD Kipling enthusiasts can follow the trail of Mowgli in Bales Worldwide's (01306 884397) new Jungle Book Explorer tour to India, focusing on sighting Mowgli's greatest enemy, the wicked "Shere Khan" tiger. The 19-day itinerary takes in Jungle Camp of Bandhavgarh, followed by a stay at Camp Kipling in Kanha National Park, setting for the Kipling classic and one of the bases of Project Tiger, a conservation programme. A visit to Tiger Top's Karnali Lodge in Nepal and a night in Delhi are also included on the tour. Cost is £3,195 for flights, entrance fees and mainly full-board accommodation.

All aboard: a steam engine driver waits for the signal

■ THE ideal present for a rail-buff: a drive-a-steam-train course oo which drivers take charge of an express or freight locomotive oo a stretch of discontinued main line at Loughborough. Great Central Railway (01509 230726) offers three one-day courses; "Bronze" (£195), which includes a drive shared with another trainee in an engine without coaches; "Silver" (£350), in a locomotive pulling a train of coaches; and "Gold" (£1,250), on which you get your own "fat controller", a duty traffic manager, guard, fireman, signalman and stationmaster while you make four round-trips of 64 miles.



NATIONAL GALLERY

Don't bother with the apartment brochure, see your prospective Venice pad by taking in the Canaletto exhibition at the National Gallery, which features *The Stonemason's Yard* (detail)

Singles choice

SINGLES specialist Sovereign Small World (0990 768373) offers all sorts of holidays for lone travellers: house parties in villas and farms; laid-back holidays in small hotels; and independent trips for those who prefer to do their own thing during the day, but don't want to be a Shirley Valentine in the evening in a restaurant full of couples.

New destinations include the Venezuelan island of Margarita, where two-week half-board independent holidays cost from £854. A skiing house party has also been introduced to Courchevel in France; a half-board chalet week costs from £439.

Touch of class

There will be nostalgia aplenty on Sunday afternoons at The Savoy (0171-420 2356) between now and Christmas: the London hotel has brought back its tea dances, famous in the Twenties and Thirties, when ladies in "afternoon dress with hats" and their partners tripped the light fantastic to the strains of resident band-leader Victor Sylvester.

Any woman wearing a hat will be given a complimentary glass of champagne — if she wears a genuine tiara, the hotel tells me, she'll get a full bottle. Tickets costs £26.50.

■ FAMILIES who want to do something a little more exciting than turkey and repeats of *Only Fools and Horses* this Christmas could join Travelbag's Thailand Family Adventure, a 15-day trip leaving on December 19. Designed to appeal to the whole family, the tour isn't overloaded with visits to temples, but offers opportunities to go elephant trekking, visit hilltribe villages and relax on the island of Ko Samet, where you spend Christmas Day. Trips cost £1,295 per adult, £995 per child (aged 5-12), which includes flights and mainly B&B accommodation. Call 01420 541007.

Wild for water

HOUSEBOATS moored at Marathon in the Florida Keys offer theme park fugitives a glimpse of real manatees, sea turtles, bald eagles and great white herons in the 500 square miles of mangrove and eerie primeval wilderness known as the Back Country, a natural marine laboratory of rare interdependent species.

There is sailing, diving and fishing — with charters, equipment and tuition available for hire at the marina. Accommodation comes with fully equipped kitchens, telephones and TV. A week costs from £669, including flights and car hire. The houseboat week can be combined with other Florida fly-drive and resort-based holidays from Unijet (0990 336336).

● *Travel articles in* The Times *since January are on our Internet site. See "Most Recent" links on* http://www.the-times.co.uk

FLYING VISITS

Departures: Monday, September 14
Lowest available published fares for return travel

Route	Promotional Fare	Flexible Fare
Glasgow – Amsterdam	from £139 KLM UK	£398 KLM UK
London – Athens	from £118 Easyjet (ex-Luton)	£880 BA (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)
London – Barcelona	from £98 Easyjet (ex-Luton)	£498 BA (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)
London – Belfast	from £56 JEA (ex-Gatwick/Stansted)	£196 JEA (ex-Gatwick/Stansted)
London – Copenhagen	£77 SAS (ex-Heathrow)	from £150 Go (ex-Stansted)
London – Inverness	from £56 Easyjet (ex-Luton)	£220 BA (ex-Gatwick)
London – Lisbon	from £100 Go (ex-Stansted)	from £180 Go (ex-Stansted)
London – Nice	from £98 Easyjet (ex-Luton)	£399 AB Airlines (ex-Gatwick)
London – Palma	from £98 Easyjet (ex-Luton)	£425 BA (ex-Gatwick)
London – Rome	from £100 Go (ex-Stansted)	from £180 Go (ex-Stansted)

Airline telephone numbers
AB Airlines 0800-458 8111
British Airways (BA) 0345 222111
Easyjet 0870-600 0000
Go 0845-605 4321
JEA 0990 676676
KLM UK 0990 074074
SAS 0171-734 4020

Notes
* Fares with Go include tax. Other fares shown exclude tax.
* Prices shown in the left-hand column are the lowest published excursion fares. Prices shown in the right-hand column are the lowest available flexible fares which do not require a Saturday night stay and which, in many cases, allow changes or cancellation without penalty. In all cases you are advised to check the restrictions, if any, when booking.
* Availability is not guaranteed.

☐ Go rambling in Las Ramblas: Bridge Travel Service (01992 456171) is offering two nights' B&B at the San Agustin hotel in Barcelona starting at £263 per person; or at the Ambassador hotel from £283 per person. Both prices include return flights from Heathrow and taxes but not transfers. Valid until October 31: departs daily.

☐ Berlin's Cultural Festival, which started this week, runs until October 5. German Travel Centre Ltd (0181-429 2900) is offering one night's accommodation only, return flights and taxes, for £165 per person. Departs daily from Gatwick.

☐ Byways Bike Breaks (0151-722 8050) is offering trips to Cheshire and the North Shropshire Meres. Three nights' B&B, bike hire, detailed routes and maps start at £110 per person, including luggage transfers. Valid throughout September and October.

☐ Rough and ready: Accommodation Overseas (0181-977 2984) is offering seven nights' Jeep and action camping safari in south-west Turkey. Off-road driving, boat trips, trekking, river kayaking, camping and swimming will be available during the trip, which starts at £449 per person including return flights from Gatwick, transfers, and full board including five nights' camping, two nights' hotel accommodation. Departs September 28.

☐ Don't get blown away: Natural Heights (0181-682 8990) specialise in kite flying holidays and offer daily tuition and use of kites. Departing on September 24 from Gatwick, seven nights' B&B in Burgau, Western Algarve in Portugal starts at £400 per person, incluing tuition, tax and transfers.

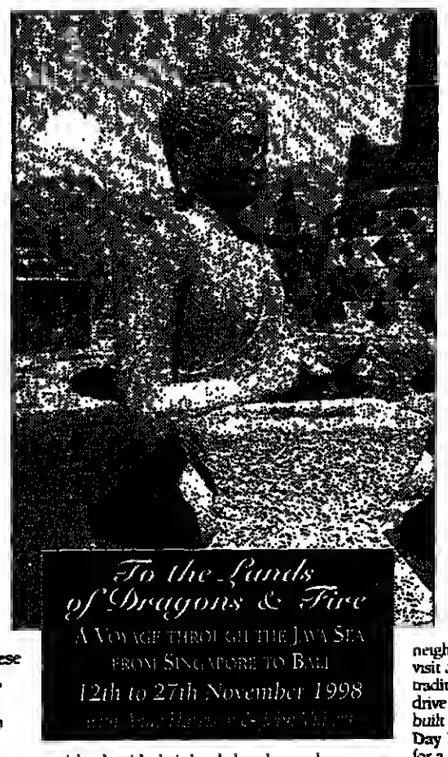
☐ Fond of fine wines? Arblaster & Clarke Wine Tours (01730 893344) is offering a "Wines of Rioja and Navarra" tour. Four nights' B&B, including five meals with wine, visits to Bodegas, tastings and the services of an expert wine guide is £799 per person. Departs from Heathrow on September 21. Tax and transfers are also included.

JOANNA HUNTER

Beyond Borobudur

In the best traditions of expedition cruising we shall again be setting off for the distant and little-known remote islands which will form our stepping stones from Singapore to the island of Java: Islands which appear as a tiny dot on the most sophisticated atlas and whose description you are unlikely to find detailed in even the most comprehensive of guide books. We will sail from one end of Java to the other, visiting the colonial city of Cirebon and the great Buddhist site at Borobudur in the central region. In the East of Java we will drop anchor off Probolinggo early in the morning for those who would like to climb up the lower slopes of the holy Mt Bromo to witness the spectacle of first light.

Leaving Java we will head in an easterly direction to the islands of Kangean, Satonda and Komodo (famous for its dragons). Our penultimate call will be to the fascinating island of Lombok with its intriguing blend of Hindu-Balinese and Muslim-Sasak cultures. Finally, we shall reach Bali an enchanting land, where green hillsides rise into sculptured ricefields. Life, art and religion are interwoven making this one of the greatest cultural jewels in the world. Bali's defiance against changing its ways is a refreshing surprise in view of the enormous pressure that comes from being one of the leading resort islands in the world.



Oceanic Odyssey

Designed in Holland and built in Japan in 1989, the 'Oceanic Odyssey' is a small deluxe vessel accommodating up to 115 passengers. Her captain, officers and management are European and the crew are Indonesian.

All cabins are elegantly furnished with sleeping and living areas, mini bar and VCR. The bathrooms have tub baths and showers.

The public areas are beautifully decorated and include a lounge bar, cafe and day lounge which leads out onto the Lido area, Lido Bar, library, gymnasium, saunas, Jacuzzi, swimming pool, hairdresser, shop and clinic.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London Heathrow to Singapore. Evening departure with Singapore Airlines.
Day 2 Singapore. Arrive and drive to the *Oceanic Odyssey*. Embark and sail.
Day 3 Tambelan Islands. In June 1994 Noble Caledonia's passengers became the first ever British cruisers to visit these beautiful, untouched Indonesian islands. We will spend our time visiting the smaller islands with their lovely beaches and rainforest-clad hills. Here you can swim, snorkel and beachcomb or join a Zodiac *circumnavigation of Palau Sedua* looking out for hawksbill turtles, turtle tracks and nests, beautiful coral heads and brightly coloured fish as well as white bellied sea eagles, grey herons and black naped terns.
Day 4 At sea.
Day 5 Palau Kebatu. This tiny island *situated halfway between Borneo and* Sumatra makes for a fascinating port of call. Explore the village of tiny thatched houses and watch the fishermen repairing their nets and drying fish. This is a delightful place so far off the beaten track that it is unlikely that any large ship has moored here since our call last year.
Day 6 Cirebon (Java). Our first call on the island of Java will be at Cirebon, a fascinating and little visited city and the island's only 16th century Islamic city-state to have survived to the present day with its palaces and royal families intact. See Independence House, the Sultan's Palace and the Archaeological Museum. Later drive into the countryside to the village of Trusmi where some of the finest batik is made.
Day 7 Semerang (Java). Drive up into the hills to Borobudur, the world's largest Buddhist moument. Built in the 8th century, some 300 years before Angkor, a visit here leaves a lasting impression. In the afternoon we will see some of the sights of Semerang including the old Dutch colonial quarter and the great Chinese temple of *Gedung Baru*.
Day 8 At sea.
Day 9 Probolinggo (Java). Arrive in the early hours of the morning. We hope to organise an early morning visit to the holy *Mount Bromo (weather permitting)*. Later we explore this beautiful region of North-East Java.
Day 10 Kangean Islands. On every cruise in this region we like to include at least one call at a new and unknown place. Recently we made our first call at the Kangean Islands which are situated approximately 160 miles north of Java. It is an amazing and totally untouched group of islands. In the afternoon we will drop anchor near Palau Seridi Kel, a small coral island, surrounded by a huge coral reef. We will launch the zodiacs and explore the marvellous reef.
Day 11 Medang/Satonda. During our morning stop off the island of *Medang there will be the* opportunity to explore the reef or Zodiac to the village and see the Algor algae aqua culture plantaoon. In the afternoon we will go ashore to Santonda, a sacred island which is a collapsed caldera with a beautiful crater lake. Its fringe reef is *renowned for the variety of its* marine life, especially the many colourful soft corals.
Day 12 Komodo. This entire island is a National Park, set aside to preserve one of the most remarkable creatures on earth - the Komodo Dragon. More than ten feet long and weighing over 300 lbs, an adult dragon is a voracious vision from the Jurassic Period.
Day 13 Lombok. Bali's quiet neighbour is a delightful island. We will visit a Sasak Village, see some of the traditional weavers at work and then drive to the Water Palace at Narmada built by King Mataram in 1805.
Day 14 Bali. Disembark after breakfast for a morning sightseeing tour before transferring to the Bali Hilton Hotel where accommodation has been reserved for an overnight stay.
Day 15 Bali. Day at leisure until early afternoon transfer to the airport in time for the return flight to London via Singapore. Or extend your stay in Bali for an additional two nights.
Day 16 London Heathrow. Arrive in the morning.

Prices Per Person

in a Twin Bedded or Queen Size Double

Cat 1	Deck 3 *Two beds*	£3690
Cat 2	Deck 4 *Two beds*	£3990
Cat 3	Deck 5 *Two beds*	£4190
Cat 4	Deck 6 *Two beds (Veranda)*	£4590
Cat 5	Deck 6 *Suite*	£5590

Single Occupancy of a Double Cabin

Cat 1	Deck 3	£4090
Cat 2	Deck 4	£4290
Cat 3	Deck 5	£4890
Cat 4	Deck 6 *(Veranda)*	£5890

Price includes: *Economy Class air travel, 12 nights aboard the Oceanic Odyssey on full board, 1 night at the Bali Hilton on breakfast only basis, shore excursions, entrance fees, port taxes, transfers, expedition team and guest speakers, UK departure tax.*
Not Included: *Travel insurance, airport taxes, gratuities.*

FOR FURTHER DETAILS
Telephone 0171-409 0376
(7days a week during office hours)
Brochureline 0171-355 1424
(24 hours)

NOBLE CALEDONIA LIMITED
11 CHARLES STREET, MAYFAIR, LONDON W1X 8LE
TEL: 0171-409 0376/355 1424 FAX: 0171-409 0834
ATOL 3108 E-MAIL: info@noble-caledonia.co.uk ABTA V321X
WEBSITE: www.noble-caledonia.co.uk

La Réunion - Treasure Island

a week on the tropical Indian Ocean island of La Réunion with an optional week-long extension to neighbouring Mauritius

We have concluded an arrangement with the Paris based scheduled airline AOM to fly our passengers non-stop from Paris by wide-bodied aircraft to the 'treasure island' of La Réunion in the Indian Ocean with connecting flight to and from Paris via London Heathrow. A visit to the tropical La Réunion introduces the traveller to a touristically underdeveloped island of great diversity and beauty where outside the hotel the tourist is hard to find. If you have been seeking that elusive combination of a winter sun destination where you can relax and where there is much of great beauty to see and explore, besides being at an affordable tariff, then La Réunion is for you. Following the week long stay on La Réunion you may take the twenty-minute flight to Mauritius and spend a further week at the 4-star Hotel Les Pavillions. Our sojourn includes seven nights at the island's best accommodation, Le Grand Hotel des Mascareignes at the coastal resort of St Gilles-les-Bains. The hotel has large swimming pool, terraces, gardens, restaurant, bar and all rooms are large with en suite facilities and fully air-conditioned. Here you may relax, soak up the sun or explore the nearby great houses, gardens, grottoes, waterfalls, lush forests, Creole architecture and Tamil temples or walk to the nearby beach.

7 or 14 nights, from £795

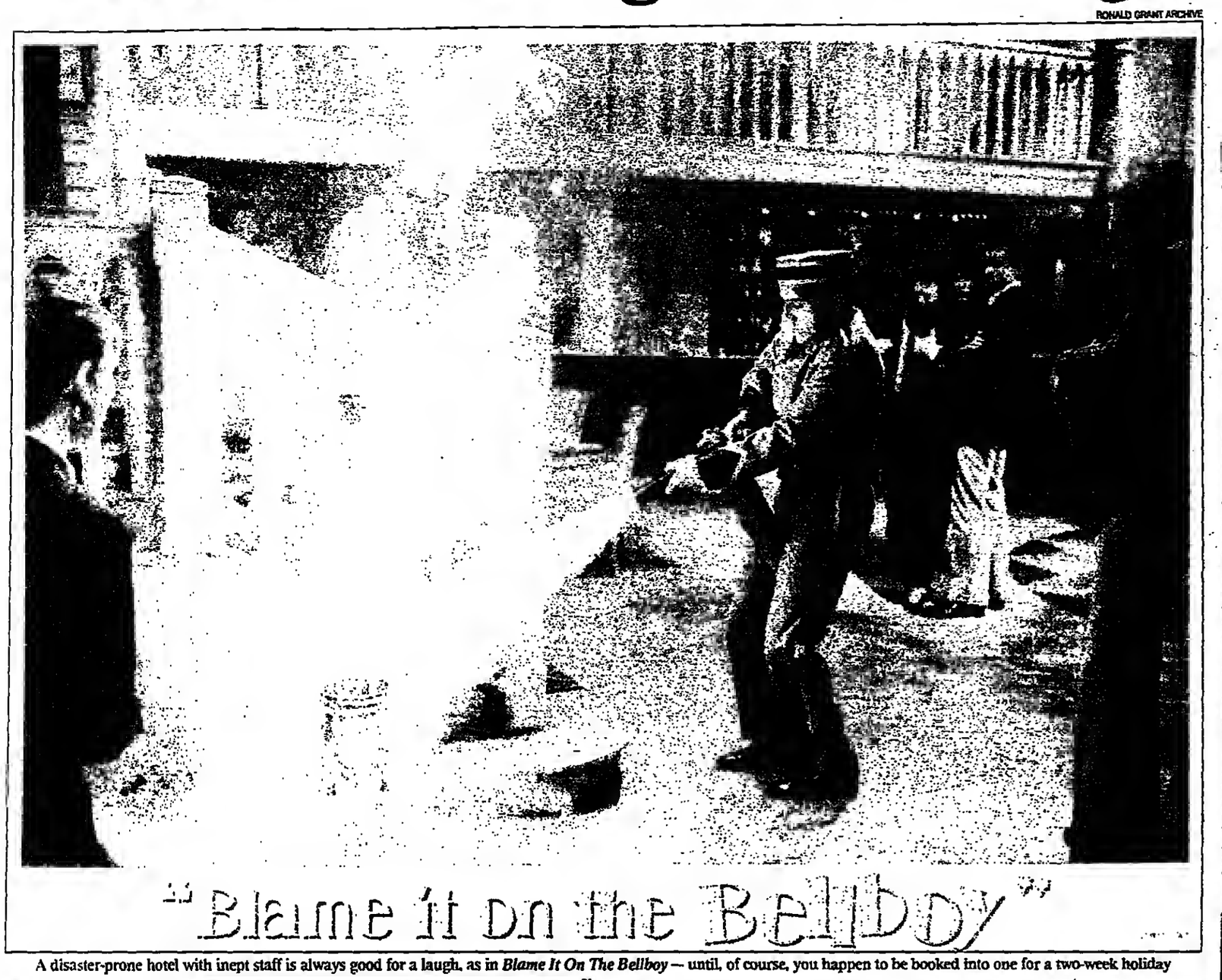
DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES
1998/99 Tuesdays - per person in a twin
Nov 3, 10, 17, 24 £825
Dec 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 £825 - Jan 5, 12, 19, 26 £795
Feb 2, 9, 16, 23 £850 - Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 £850
Apr 6, 13, 20, 27 £850
Single Supplement £240. Extra Week £340 twin, £580 single. Xmas/New Year/Easter Suppl £95.
Week Extension on Mauritius
£455 per person in twin, £695 in a single.
Inclusions: 7 nights half board at the hotel, transportation throughout, knowledgeable local guides, UK departure tax. Not included: insurance, overseas airport tax, tips. Our current Conditions of Booking (available on request) shall apply to all reservations.

0171-616 1000
VOYAGES JULES VERNE
21 Dorset Square, London NW1 6QG
Travel Promotions Ltd. ABTA V1661 ATOL 883B
Our offices are open Monday to Friday 9am to 8pm and at weekends for telephone reservations from 9am to 5pm. For personal visitors our office hours are 9am to 5pm weekdays only.

Travel companies say we complain too much but many of us do encounter problems on holiday. **Tom Chesshyre** reports

When it all goes wrong

RONALD GRANT ARCHIVE



A disaster-prone hotel with inept staff is always good for a laugh, as in *Blame It On The Bellboy* — until, of course, you happen to be booked into one for a two-week holiday

You've saved all year for two weeks in the sun, only to discover your package holiday did not live up to expectations. The "dazzling white, Moorish hotel with extensive subtropical gardens" described in the brochure was not quite as dazzling and its gardens not quite as extensive as the slightly blurred accompanying photographs made out.

You also had no idea that "full of local atmosphere" would mean lager louts staggering about chanting football songs. And, as far as you can recall, the brochure had not mentioned scurrying cockroaches on the terrace and oafish builders drilling by the pool.

As the summer season draws to a close, tens of thousands of disgruntled holidaymakers will be putting pen to paper to complain to tour operators about problems experienced on trips abroad: it is estimated that operators fork out refunds of more than £3 million each year.

Admittedly, few claimants will have suffered the triple whammy of lager louts, cockroaches and noisy builders, but many will have had serious letdowns.

Take, for example, Philip Rowlands and his girlfriend, Louise Sutton, a young couple from Manchester, who were shocked by what they found at their three-star hotel, the Residence Fabiola, near Magaluf in Majorca, where they stayed last month. They claim that because the property was so full of elderly guests, and that some of the staff, they say, wore white medical coats, it was more like an old people's home than a hotel. At one point they say they saw a coffin being carried out past the reception area.

"It was a disgrace," said Mr Rowlands. "People were literally dying around us. Some of the old men even gathered around to peep at my girlfriend when she was sunbathing topless by the pool." First Choice, the tour operator concerned, is investigating the matter and has stopped using the hotel for the time being.

However, although each summer throws up such headline grabbing cases, many in the travel industry feel British holidaymakers are too ready to complain, and that there is now an unhealthy "whinging Pom" complaint culture.

Tour operators say there is a growing trend among holidaymakers to search out problems just so they can write letters asking for compensation. More travellers than ever, they say, are taking notebooks on trips to record petty, often unavoidable, faults.

A spokeswoman for one mainstream tour operator said: "Some people blatantly tell our reps at the beginning of the holiday that they will try to find something wrong with it. People complain about absolutely anything."

She pointed to this summer's widely reported decision by Judge Anthony Cleary to award three families minimal damages after he visited the hotel in Malta that they had complained about. He concluded that the families had exaggerated their dissatisfaction, sometimes to an extent that was "unattractive and unworthy".

Nevertheless, it is clear that many holidaymakers have genuine complaints. Even the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA), which represents operators, admits this. "Many people have high expectations — too high — when they go on holiday," said a spokeswoman. "But many are also justified in making complaints."

Anne Harvey, research manager at *Holiday Which?*, said: "People are better informed about their legal rights now than they were ten years ago and are more willing to complain about poor accommodation, flight delays and inaccurate brochure descriptions. Unfortunately, many operators remain unwilling to offer adequate compensation."

Should you experience real problems on your holiday, our guide, right, will help you get your complaint right.

PA

Philip Rowlands: complained about his "old age" hotel

A WHINGE TOO FAR

We asked tour companies for examples of their more unusual customer complaints:

LOST FOR WORDS
- The waiters in France didn't speak English.
- My husband lost his dentures while snorkelling.
- Turkey was too hot for my artificial leg.
- Even though I don't have children, I should have been given a children's game pack.
- The waiters were more friendly to Anthea Turner when she visited on *Wish You Were Here*.

CHEEKY ONE-LINERS
- Your rep was as useful as a chocolate fireguard.
- The beach was described as a stone's throw away, but even Fatima Whitbread couldn't have reached it.
- We skipped the soup so we could beat the flies to the main course.
- I'm cancelling because I'm pregnant through no fault of my own.

BEST MALAPROPISMS
- I strongly object to being used as a prawn in your chess game.
- There was no way we were putting our baby in that contraception.
- I've had enough. I'm calling *Dogwatch*.

Make a fuss and make it work

HOW TO COMPLAIN

The basics: The most important holiday law comes under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations (1992) which says that holidays should run smoothly and that accommodation should be as described in the brochure.

If it is not, you should receive compensation.

The key proviso is that you should always complain at the time something goes wrong, otherwise you have not allowed the operator the opportunity to put things right. Not doing so can affect the amount of compensation that the operator has to pay.

Changes before departure: The law also says that holidaymakers should be informed as quickly as possible if operators make any last-minute changes to essential parts of your holiday — such as flight times or accommodation. If you decide to cancel because of a change, you should be compensated and receive a refund. However, this only applies to a "significant" change.

Generally speaking, a "significant" change is likely to be something such as a flight being put back six hours so that it is departing in the middle of the night, or your accommodation being switched from one resort to another, for example, from a quiet place to a noisy, disco-packed area. If you go ahead with the holiday or take an alternative trip with the same company, write to the operator accepting the change "under protest".

Flight delays: Tour operators are not legally obliged to compensate you for delays, although some offer up to £20 for charter flight delays of more than 12 hours. Most travel insurance also covers delays of over 12 hours; normally £20-£25. It may be worth writing to an airline following a long delay to explain the inconvenience and cost you incurred and asking for compensation in the interests of good customer relations — it is not, however, obliged to pay you anything. In extreme cases in which you feel the airline has not done enough, you can take the matter to the small claims court.

Keeping a record: Even though it might seem a bit of a burden, always make a note of things when they go wrong. For example, if you are unhappy with your accommodation, tell your rep as soon as you can and request to be moved — make a note of when you do so and how long it takes for matters to be resolved. Also, take photographs or use a video camera to record below-standard rooms or other problems such as nearby building work. Swap names and addresses with other upset holidaymakers, who may be able to corroborate your claim later. Do not commit yourself to alternative accommodation until you have actually seen it, and never sign any disclaimer attached to any form of on-the-spot compensation. Ask for a copy of any complaint form that you fill in.

Illness and injury: Operators are responsible for injuries and illness (for example, food poisoning) caused by a hotel or any other contractor they use. Alert the rep to the problem and keep copies of medical reports.

Letters of complaint: Write to the operator with your claim within 28 days of returning. Letters should be succinct, highlighting exactly how you feel the operator broke its contract with you, ie, how the trip ended up being different from how it was described in the brochure.

Provide evidence: Use photographs and typed copies of notes. Steer clear of hyperbole, sarcasm, lots of capital letters and exclamation marks — it usually just inflames the situation, making tour operators less sympathetic. It is also worth noting that correspondence can drag on, so try to keep your cool if it does.

How much should I claim? Be realistic. Do not ask for a full refund because you have been put in a three-star rather than a four-star hotel. Work out the difference in value, then estimate how much loss of enjoyment you have suffered. Add on extra expenses — for example, taxi fares if the hotel was further out of town than the one you originally booked.

Should all else fail: If you have got nowhere after about two frustrating months of correspondence, you can call in the services of a third party to decide the outcome of your claim.

If the operator is a member of ABTA (0171-637 2444), you can try its arbitration process — which costs £64.63 for claims of up to £1,500 per person. Alternatively, you can take the operator to the small claims court; issuing a summons will cost between £10 and £80 for claims of up to £3,000 (you do not normally need a solicitor in such circumstances).

PA

Passengers ready to depart: many will return disappointed

SPECIAL OFFER
from £499
HONG KONG, BANGKOK + BEACH
12 nts (3 Hong Kong; 3 Bangkok; 6 Cha Am)
STANFORD, Hong Kong: excellent medium class hotel in Kowloon. Restaurants, bar. Airconditioned rooms: minibar, TV, phone, bath/shower. (Single rooms: shower only).
ASIA, Bangkok: good medium class hotel, good location. Swimming pool, fitness room. Restaurants, bars. Airconditioned rooms: TV, phone, bath/shower.
REGENT, Cha Am: charming 1st class hotel on long sandy beach. Swimming pool, tennis, squash. Restaurants, bar. Aircon rooms: TV, phone, bath/shower, balcony.

Departure dates:	Price:	Departure dates:	Price:
20 Sep '98	£499	09 Dec	£799
30 Sep	£569	16 Dec	£999
12,14,18 Oct	£599	13,27 Jan '99	£649
20,27 Oct,03 Nov	£649	07, 21 Feb,07 Mar	£599
03,15 Nov	£599	21 Mar	£629
24 Nov	£669	11,25 Apr	£649
01 Dec	£669	09 May	£499

The price includes: Scheduled flights/Heathrow. UK Dept tax £20. 12 nts accom (no meals). Transfers. Price per person sharing twin. Not included: Local dept tax (HKG: £8 approx, Thailand: £5 approx). Optional insurance: £56. Booking conditions apply.
To book, telephone: (open daily inc Sat/Sun)
☎ 01306 744300
Fax: 01306 744334
ABTA V258X
ATOL 132
The Travel Collection, Deepdene House, Dorking, Surrey RH5 4AZ.

You land in Paris but your luggage goes to Tokyo. **Jeannette Hyde** explains what to do

Lost, stolen or strayed

YOU can always spot the poor travellers whose luggage has been lost by an airline. They are the ones in jeans, jumpers and trainers, looking self-conscious in the restaurant, or else they are sunbathing on the beach in their underwear. Here is our guide to surviving the experience.

IF you are travelling with a partner, pack half your belongings in each other's cases, so if one bag goes missing you both have something to wear.

MARK your luggage with distinctive stickers or strap a bright belt around it to reduce the chances of another passenger taking it in error. At check-in, make sure it has the correct destination label.

HAVE your belongings covered by insurance — either travel insurance, or the all-risks section of your household contents cover — because if your luggage disappears, airline payouts are unlikely to cover the loss of the goods.

UNDER the terms of the Warsaw Convention, airlines are only obliged to pay you $20 (about £14) per kilo of luggage lost. When you consider that most suitcases carry 20 kilos, that is just £280 — hardly likely to cover the cost of one decent jacket or suit. Pack valuable items — jewellery, camera, a smart dress or jacket — in your carry-on luggage.

KEEP receipts for new clothes at home to help with any insurance claim.

IF your luggage fails to appear on the carousel, inform the airline's customer service desk before leaving the baggage hall and fill in a property irregularity report (PIR). Be as detailed as possible about the contents of the bag. About 90 per cent of baggage is traced within 24 hours and the airline should bring it to your home or hotel.

AIRLINE policies for helping you cope vary wildly. For instance, Cathay Pacific makes a goodwill payout of £50 to £100 to cover basic toiletries, underwear and prescriptions for the first few days. Sometimes this is a cash payout at the airport. At other times you send the airline receipts after the holiday up to a specified sum for toiletries and other essentials.

CALEDONIAN Airways offers £25 per day for the first three days you are without luggage. British Airways gives out amenity bags and £75 cash and, for arrivals in the UK, Marks & Spencer vouchers. Some Lufthansa airport desks will give you a toilet kit and a cash advance — say £20. Any payment from Lufthansa will be deducted from your final compensation payment if the luggage is not found.

You're only really covered with
WORLDCOVER
ANNUAL TRAVEL INSURANCE
0800 565 121

CAYMAN ISLANDS
Deeply Relaxing
In this peaceful and sun-soaked British Crown Colony in the Caribbean you can relax on powder white sand beaches. Enjoy world class diving and snorkelling in protected waters. Deluxe apartments and restaurants to suit all tastes. British Airways fly direct three times a week.
FOR BROCHURES CALL
0171-491 7771
www.caymanislands.ky

هكذا من الأصل

هدية من الأصل

Tom Chesshyre reports

...ake a fuss ...nd make it work

TO ADVERTISE CALL:
0171 481 1989 (TRADE)
FAX: 0171 481 7824

TRAVEL

TO ADVERTISE CALL:
0171 481 4000 (PRIVATE)
FAX: 0171 782 7799

CHECK-IN

AMERICANA BEST OFFERS!!

GO AMERICANA BUSINESS CLASS SAVE OVER 50%

ACAPULCO	£1298	MONTEGO BAY	£1898
ALBUQUERQUE	£1799	MONTROSE	£1798
ANCHORAGE	£1899	MONTREAL	£1298
ANTIGUA	£898	NASSAU	£1698
ASPEN	£1698	NEWARK	£999
ATLANTA	£1099	NEW ORLEANS	£1398
BALTIMORE	£998	NEW YORK	£899
BARBADOS	£898	OKLAHOMA CITY	£1799
BERMUDA	£1298	OMAHA	£1799
BOISE	£1799	ORANGE COUNTY	£1799
BOSTON	£998	OTTAWA	£1299
BURBANK	£1799	PALM SPRINGS	£1799
CALGARY	£1499	PHILADELPHIA	£998
CANCUN	£1298	PHOENIX	£1799
CHARLOTTE	£998	PITTSBURGH	£998
CHICAGO	£1098	PORTLAND	£1799
CINCINNATI	£1199	QUEBEC CITY	£1299
CLEVELAND	£1199	RALEIGH DURHAM	£998
COLORADO SPRINGS	£1799	RENO	£1799
CUBA	£998	SACRAMENTO	£1799
DALLAS	£1499	SALT LAKE CITY	£1799
DENVER	£1699	SAN ANTONIO	£1799
DETROIT	£1199	SAN DIEGO	£1799
DURANGO	£1799	SAN FRANCISCO	£1799
EDMONTON	£1499	SAN JUAN	£1798
FORT LAUDERDALE	£1199	SANTA FE	£1799
FORT MYERS	£1198	SARASOTA	£1199
FREEPORT	£1698	SEATTLE	£1799
GRAND CAYMAN	£1899	SIOUX FALLS	£1799
GRENADA	£898	SPOKANE	£1799
HALIFAX	£1299	ST JOHNS	£1298
HAWAII	£2199	ST KITTS	£898
HOUSTON	£1499	ST LOUIS	£1199
INDIANAPOLIS	£1299	ST LUCIA	£898
KALAMAZOO	£1298	TAMPA	£1199
KANSAS CITY	£1199	TOBAGO	£898
KINGSTON	£1898	TORONTO	£1298
LAS VEGAS	£1798	TUCSON	£1799
LOS ANGELES	£1798	VAIL	£1698
MADISON	£1298	VANCOUVER	£1499
MIAMI	£1199	WEST PALM BEACH	£1199
MILWAUKEE	£1199	WASHINGTON	£998
MINNEAPOLIS	£1299	WINNIPEG	£1498

All fares listed are return from London (regional fares may vary) subject to Americana booking conditions and availability. Seasonal flight supplements will apply for differing travel periods. Airport tax included.

GO AMERICANA FAST - TRACK !!! 0171 636 3055

FLY CONCORDE★FIRST★BUSINESS★PREMIER★PREMIUM★ECONOMY CLASS TO OVER THOUSAND CITIES. SAVE OVER 50% ON AMERICANA'S FAVOURITE AIRLINES, HOTELS & CAR RENTAL!!!

Americana Vacations Plc. ABTA D5585 acting as agents for ATOL holders. E-mail: bestoffers@americana.demon.co.uk

AMERICANA VACATIONS PLC
11 Little Portland St, London W1N 5DF

OPEN 7 DAYS FOR BEST BUSINESS CLASS OFFERS CALL US NOW!!!
0171 636 3055 · 0171 837 8485 · 0171 637 4107 · 0171 637 7653

QUEST WORLDWIDE

OPEN 7 DAYS · 4/10 Richmond Road, Kingston, Surrey KT2 5HL

WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS return from	
SYDNEY	£467
CAIRNS	£518
PERTH	£464
AUCKLAND	£505
BANGKOK	£350
HONG KONG	£361
DELHI	£254
SINGAPORE	£362
DUBAI	£338
NAIROBI	£398
JO'BURG	£338

NEW QANTAS SPECIALS to AUSTRALIA from £724 Rtn with 3 FREE* Options
- FREE flights to selected European cities
- 2 FREE Domestic Flights in Oz
- A FREE Add-on Flight to N.Z

Perth/Darwin from £724 (Option 1 only)
Sydney/E.Coast from £819
*Airport taxes on all free flights are not included
For Travel Nov - 09 Dec & 15 Jan - 15 Mar 99

FOR A FREE COPY OF ANY OF OUR BROCHURES CALL US NOW ON

USA & CANADA return fr	
ATLANTA	£220
BOSTON	£220
CHICAGO	£251
DENVER	£280
HOUSTON	£260
LOS ANGELES	£305
MIAMI	£280
NEW YORK	£189**
S. FRANCISCO	£305
WASHINGTON	£220
TORONTO	£240
VANCOUVER	£330
MEXICO	£357

** 1/1-24/3

ALL OUR FLIGHT PRICES INCLUDE PRE PAID AIRPORT TAXES
0181 547 3322
ABTA A9256 ATOL 3255 IATA

BROCHURE HOTLINE 0181 546 4545
USA & CANADA 0181 546 6000

Direct Travel Insurance

For top quality cover & value

Worldwide Annual Multi-trip · unlimited ski - unlimited trips · comp. family cover £105

UK's best single trip rates from: EUR. £6.75 · USA £16.18 · SKI £12.00

Underwritten by Travellers' Insurance Association Limited · Commercial Union General Insurer of the Year 1997

01903 812345 For instant cover or quotation 9am-8pm seven days a week

Annual Multi Trip Travel Insurance

from only 16p Per Day Conditions Apply

INSURANCE BOOKERS
A DIVISION OF FLIGHTBOOKERS PLC.
0870 333 0036
ABTA D0806 · IATA · ATOL 2342
No Credit Card Surcharges

TRAVEL INSURANCE

HIGHEST QUALITY LOWEST PRICES
"Award winning Annual Cover"
COLOSSUS DIRECT
FAMILY ANNUAL - with skiing - £99
Backpacking Worldwide 365 Days - £199
LLOYD'S Call 0990 775 885 7 DAYS
Insurance Underwritten by certain syndicates at Lloyds and other insurers

GOA

GOA Specialist fr £349 2 wks. 32 hotels 48 page colour Broch. Tel: 01293 533 338 ATOL 3906

AIRPORT PARKING

HEATHROW £4.95 per day (no min stay). Free after 14 days. Max charge £69.30 (Up to 50 days) Secure Parking 0181 8138130

AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA onl £1,690 - 15days. SA/Vic Falls - £2,390 - 18 days. SATSA member, SATOUR guides, African Explorer Tours. Tel 0027 31 232673 Fax 0027 31 230492 Email africanex@iafrica.com

CITY BREAKS

Paris 2nts 2★ £129

A selection of our other European Breaks includes

Bruges	2nts 2★	£129
Brussels	2nts 4★	£169
Nice	2nts 2★	£229
Lille	2nts 2★	£119
Madrid	2nts 3★	£199

All prices inc flights or Eurostar, airport taxes and B/B accomm. Valid until 31 October.
travelnow 55 Wilton Road London SW1V 1DE
0171 630 3315
www.frantour.co.uk
ATOL 1302 ABTA V3173

HOTEL Accommodation- Paris, Amsterdam, Dublin, Madrid, etc 2* to 5* from £29 pppn. All hotels in city centres. 3 nts for 2 nts offers. The Hotel Directory 0181 770 0123.

EUROPEAN SPECIALS · FRANCE · ITALY · LUPUS TRAVEL LTD 0171 306 3000 · 01892 553500

AFRICA

TAILORMADE SAFARIS
ZIMBABWE, BOTSWANA, NAMIBIA, ZAMBIA, KENYA, TANZANIA & S. AFRICA
Luxurious remote lodges. Walking, canoeing, riding and vehicle safaris with the very best guides. Superb wildlife. Adventure with comfort. Call us to create your ideal safari.
Tel:(01604) 628979 Fax: 639879
66 Palmerston Rd, Northampton, NN1 5EX
AFRICA EXCLUSIVE

GENERAL OVERSEAS

CLASSIC HOLIDAYS FROM THE CADOGAN COLLECTION
8 Award Winning Summer 98 Brochures
- A superb selection of 3, 4 and 5★ hotels
- Scheduled day flights, from Gatwick & Heathrow
- Special regional add-ons
- Free guide book and discount card
- Deals, children, singles, honeymooners
- Early booking bonus; extra night free!
- Flexible durations from 2-56 nights
- Price pledge: We will not be beaten!

Algarve · Bermuda · Comino · Cyprus · Gibraltar · Gozo · Jersey · Madeira · Majorca · Malta · Morocco · Porto · Porto Santo · Spain · Tunisia

Voted Best Specialist Short Haul Tour Operator 1997 & 1998
CADOGAN HOLIDAYS
24 Hour Brochure Hotline 0990 17 18 19

BALEARICS

CALA D'OR Santanyi & Porto Petro, Majorca. Beautiful countryside villas with private pools, apts and hotels. Open 7 days. Sept offers. Club Cala d'Or Holidays 01903 200207 (24hrs) ABTA V4424X

GENERAL OVERSEAS

BUDAPEST
Autumn Specials
5 Star Spa Hotel. Use of swimming pool, sauna, thermal & steam bath, jacuzzi & fitness room. 3 nights from £247 p.p. B&B inc flights
3 Star Central Hotel 3 nights from £221 p.p. B&B inc flights
Price inc. Taxes and transfers.
Call Hungarian Air Tours on 0171 437 9405
ATOL 2334

BALEARICS

MENORCA Attractive villas / farmhouses with private pools, apartments & hotels across the island. Open 7 days. Sept offers. Sat depts in Oct. Club Menorca Holidays on (01903) 234024 (24 hrs) ABTA V4424X

CALA D'OR, Santanyi & Porto Petro, Majorca. Beautiful countryside villas with private pools, apts and hotels. Open 7 days. Sept offers. Club Cala d'Or Holidays 01903 200207 (24hrs) ABTA V4424X

MENORCA. Attractive villas/farmhouses with private pools, apartments & hotels across the island. Open 7 days. Sept offers. Sat depts in Oct. Club Menorca Holidays 01903 234024 (24hrs) ABTA V4424X

PUERTO Pollensa & Cala San Vicente, Majorca. Beautiful countryside villas with private pools, apts & htls. Open 7 days. Sept offers. Club Pollensa Holidays 01903 230128 (24hrs) ABTA V4424X

PUERTO POLLENSA & Cala San Vicente, Majorca. Beautiful countryside villas with private pools, apts & hotels. Open 7 days. Sept offers. Club Pollensa Holidays 01903 230128 (24hrs) ABTA V4424X

CANARIES & MADEIRA

JUST Lanzarote lux villas private htd secluded pools. Also aparts. Many extras. late offers 01234 843843. www.lanzarote.co.uk

CORSICA

CORSICAN Places. We specialise in Corsica. Lovely villas with pools, cottages by the sea, medieval village houses, carefully selected hotels. Very friendly personal service. Atol 2647 Aito. 01424 460046 Fx 460033

CARIBBEAN

ANTIGUA On the beach lovely priv villa slps 6, pool, maid. From £1,325 pw. T/F 0171 930 0836.

GENERAL OVERSEAS

eurolines
paris amsterdam... from £45 return

Cork	£45
Cologne	£65
Hamburg	£69
Jersey	£76
Strasbourg	£79
Zurich	£84
Prague	£85
Copenhagen	£96
Bordeaux	£99

For details call 0990 143219
EUROPE'S EXPRESS COACH NETWORK

CARIBBEAN

AAAAH Cubal Independent Travel. Colour brochure Tel: 0181 681 3612 ATOL 2429

BARBADOS West coast poolside beach accomodation slps up to 6. Phone for details 01332 767724 or fax 739779.

ST LUCIA, Lux 2 bedrm, 2 bath, waterfront condo, all amenities. £525pw Details 0171 735 1668

CYPRUS

N.CYPRUS Luxury villa beautiful area 3 beds 2 baths dip pool long let preferred. Tel: 01494 563866 or Fax: 01895 435690

EASTERN EUROPE

SHORT Breaks to Prague - Low package prices, centrally located hotels and aparts. Cedok Travel 0171 839 4414, ATOL 4311

POLAND
10 Day Autumn Holiday with Half Board £129
To Zakopane in the Beautiful Tatra Mountains
New Millennium Holidays Brochure: 0121 711 3269

FRANCE

ALPS St Gervais, 2 lux family apts, gdns in superb pte chalet. Exc ski/walking. 01222 384441.

CHARENTE for two (no children). Real France, comfortable well equipped cottages. Heated pool. For details contact Sandy Whittle Phone (0033) 545 602976 Fax (0033) 545 603893

CHEZ NOUS '98. Save money - Book direct with 20000 private B&B's in France. Free 316 page colour brochure includes late availability. Tel 08700 730 730 http://www.chezhous.com.

COTE D'AZUR - Vence. Lovely apt, Slps 4. Pool, pkg. 20 mins Nice. Fr £150pw. 01590 674286

FRANCE Nord Pas-de-Calais, Picardy, Paris, Moselle, Brittany, loire. Holiday homes and short breaks. 0121 353 6457 ABTA

LOIRE Valley (Tours Saumur). Classic country house large garden slps 10 Tel: 015395 30136

NORMANDY Gites de France cottages. 120 coastal & rural locations 01922 725705 AITO.

Van Gogh & Millet Exhibition in Paris
2 nights by Eurostar from just £155 p.p. Also available by air from regional airports.
01242 240 310
VFB Holidays Ltd. (CT) Cheltenham GL50 3FB http://www.vfbhols.co.uk

GERMANY

GERMANY Daily low cost flights and hotel accomodation. All major cs. German Travel Centre 0181 429 2900 open 7 days. ABTA 90685 ATOL 2977 IATA

GREECE

AMAZINGLY Honest award winning brochure. We offer a wide selection of family run hotels, studios, apartment, villas and traditional houses on 10 islands; Alonissos, Halki, Kalymnos, Leros, Spetses, Symi, Lipsi, Skopelos, Tilos. 24 hour brochure line Tel 01629 824881. Laskarina Ltd. ATOL 1424 AITO.

FILOXENIA for Greco-files; Escape pipes; mainland & unusual isles: Atol 2817 Aito 01422 375999.

GUARANTEED Late availability accom to most Greek Islands 0181 886 1011 www.greecead.com

SECRET Greek Island retreats for those who seek a more luxurious escape from the crowds. Greek Islands Club's New Private Collection. Tel: 0181 232 9780 ABTA AITO ATOL.

SIMPLY Ionian. Paxos, Corfu, Lefkas, Meganisi, Ithaca, Cephalonia, Zakynthos. Villas with private pools, family run hotels and seaside cottages in beautiful locations away from the mainstream. 0181 995 9323 ABTA V1337 ATOL 1922 AITO.

SIMPLY Crete. Escape the mainstream and experience the real Crete. Restored country cottages, villas with private pools, quality aptments and family-run hotels. Plus island wandering and special interest holidays. 0181 995 9323 ABTA V1337 ATOL AITO

THE TIMES recommends Pure Crete a/c houses in hideaway villages - Breathtaking scenery and empty beaches. Autumn avail. 0181-760 0879 ATOL AITO.

ITALY

B & B Romantic Medieval Tuscany lovely English run old villa near sea. £25pppn superb food T/F: 0039 187427022

LAKE Garda & Maggiore apts & hotels, also Cities, Lakes and Mountains 01329 844405 AITO

ISCHIA Beautiful green island nr Sorrento, Capri. Prvt apartment 01622 676779/ 07775 914811.

SICILY & Aeolian Islands We specialise in package & tailor made holidays incl. Hotels, Self-Catering, Fly/Drive, Tours & Flights only. Sicilian Experience, 6 Palace St, London SW1E Tel 0171 8289171 ABTA/ATOL

SIMPLY Tuscany & Umbria. Traditional country villa apartments with pool and flexible, fly-drive holidays featuring charming, intimate hotels. Plus Special Interest Holidays and short breaks to florence, Venice and Rome. 0181 995 9323. ABTA V1337 ATOL 1922 AITO

TUSCANY Nr Lucca, enjoy autumn in beautiful hillside hamlet, great views, walks. S/C or B&B Tel/Fax 0039 584 951230.

TUSCANY / Sicily. Select properties in excellent locations, pools etc. Brochure 01539 431120 ABTA V7333

UMBRIA/Tuscan border 10% off autumn prices for converted farmhouse apartments. Pool, tennis. Sleep 2-6. Prices from £290 pw. 01908 563236.

VENICE s/c apt + dbl rms. Fr £75 in beautiful listed palazzo nr St Marks Rialto. 00390415225686

MALTA & GOZO

EXTENSIVE Choice of Hotels, Villas & Apts. For best prices. Brochure avail tel: 01482 679 879.

PORTUGAL

PORTUGAL & Canaries. All areas. Villas/apts, hotels, pousadas, golf hols, flights. Longmere Intl. 0181 684 2424. Retail Agents. ABTA E143X

REAL Portugal. All types rentals/holidays, north to south. Portfolio freephone 0800 0742949

SIMPLY Portugal - Truly individual villas with pools, glorious manor houses and selected hotels and pousadas all over this fascinating country, plus flexible 'wandering' holidays and city breaks. 0181 995 9323. ABTA V1337 ATOL 1922 AITO

EXCLUSIVE GOLDENJOY HOLIDAYS/TIMES OFFER · THE TIMES

UP TO 40% OFF RED SEA HOLIDAYS — JUST £299

PRICES INCLUDE: ● Seven nights in a choice of four or five-star hotels with breakfast ● Return flights from Gatwick ● Transfers ● UK airport taxes

Today *The Times*, with Goldenjoy Holidays, offers readers an unbeatable choice of superb holidays to the Red Sea resorts of Sharm El Sheikh or Hurghada from only £299 per person for seven nights, with breakfast, in a choice of six excellent four and five-star resort hotels. Each hotel offers superior service with a selection of leisure activities, including water sports and evening entertainment. All rooms are air-conditioned, have satellite television and private facilities.

Sharm El Sheikh is close to the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula and there is a cosmopolitan selection of restaurants. Hurghada, originally a fishing village, is now a fast-developing holiday destination. At both resorts you will enjoy sun and wonderful coral reefs in temperate, clear water with fascinating marine life making them popular for scuba diving or snorkelling.

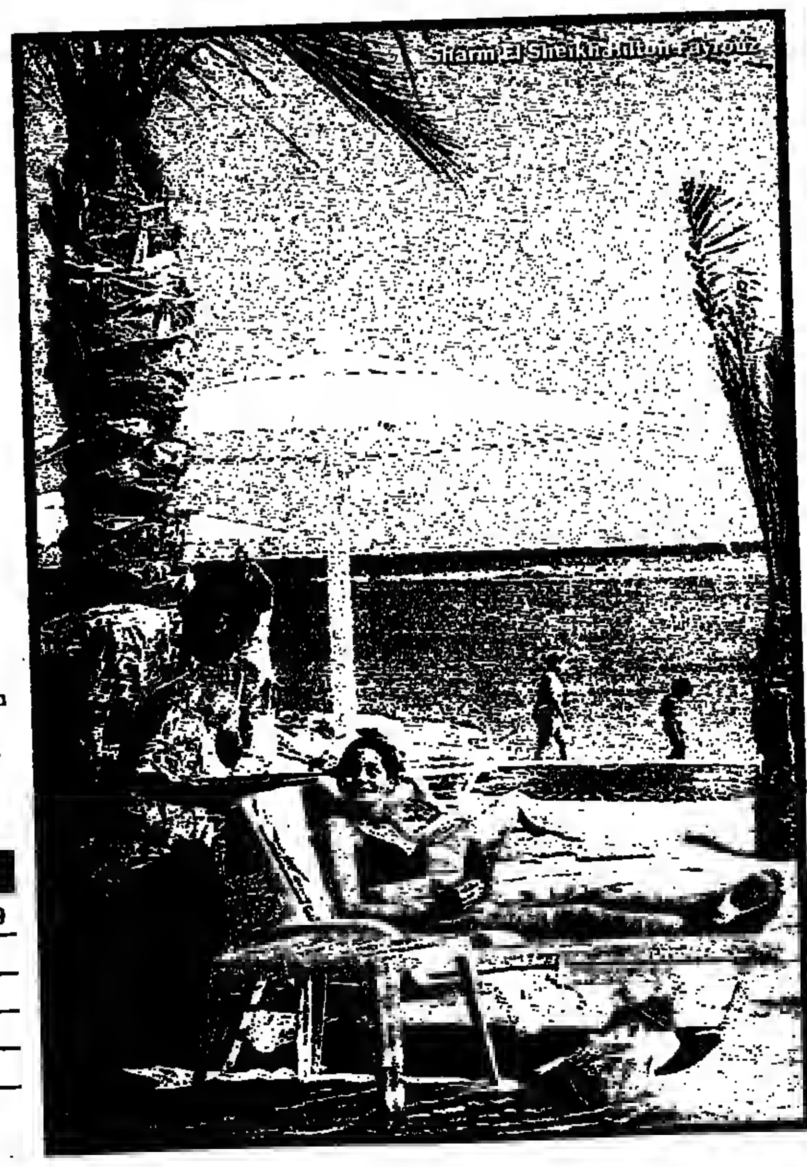
ACCOMMODATION:

Sharm El Sheikh Coral Bay Resort and Casino has three swimming pools, a fitness centre and private beach with a beautiful coral reef.
Sharm El Sheikh Hilton Fayrouz is located on Na'ama Bay and has a private beach, swimming pool, six restaurants and three bars.
Sharm El Sheikh Kahramana has a large, landscaped swimming pool with bar and Jacuzzi and is located close to Na'ama Bay beach.
Hurghada Hilton Resort is set in Hurghada Bay and has a private beach with its own marina, a fitness centre, tennis courts, water sports and two swimming pools.
Hurghada Hilton Plaza has a large pool, excellent fitness facilities, all rooms with sea view and balcony, private beach and marina, fish restaurant, Jacuzzi and sauna.
Hurghada Inter-Continental is set in landscaped gardens, all rooms have sea views and it has an extra-large, temperature-controlled pool for serious swimmers.

DEPARTURE DATES

SHARM EL SHEIKH	Thursdays Nov 12 to 26, Dec 3 to 17, Jan 7 to 28 — £299	
HURGHADA	Fridays Nov 6 to 27, Dec 4 to18, Jan 8 to 29 — £299	
	Christmas/New Year Specials	
SHARM EL SHEIKH	Dec 24 — £489	Dec 31 — £599
HURGHADA	Dec 25 — £449	Jan 1 — £359

Prices are based on two people sharing a twin room. Diving packages, single supplements and children's discount available on request. Standard Goldenjoy Holidays booking conditions apply. Offer subject to availability. Travel insurance not included



EXCURSIONS

Both resorts offer some of the best scuba diving sites in the world and Goldenjoy Holidays has negotiated special prices on PADI learn-to-dive and qualified five-day dive packages (prices per person):
Learn-to-dive PADI open-water course £180
Qualified divers five-day dive pack £139
Visit the 6th-century monsatery of St Catherine, which houses one of the most important collections of iconic art and is built on the site of the Burning Bush at the foot of Mt Sinai. It is from here Moses is said to have received the Ten Commandments. **St Catherine £30**

For further details send coupon to:
***THE TIMES* RED SEA OFFER,**
GOLDENJOY HOLIDAYS, 36 MILL LANE, LONDON, NW6 1NR

NAME ......
ADDRESS ......
...... POST CODE ......
You may be sent further information on offers and services which may be of interest to you. If you do not wish to participate please tick box ☐

FOR BOOKING DETAILS CALL GOLDENJOY HOLIDAYS ON 0171-794 9767

This holiday is operated by Goldenjoy Leisure plc 36, Mill Lane, London NW6 1NR, a company independent of Times Newspapers Ltd ABTA V2734 ATOL 2544

CHANGING TIMES

The cat's whiskers: Sprite

CHECK-IN

2 FREE* Flights within OZ

When you BOOK QANTAS or BRITISH AIRWAYS to AUSTRALIA

Choose 2 domestic flights in OZ, or why not take a look at some of the stopover offers opposite....

BANGKOK 4nts 4★ accom fr £49pp

SYDNEY 3nts 4★ accommodation + Harbour Cruise fr £85pp

HUNTER VALLEY/ GOLD COAST 1wk car hire + 5nts accom + wine tasting experience fr £210pp

CAIRNS 3nts accom with breakfast, transfers, Barrier Reef Cruise fr £89pp

QANTAS BRITISH AIRWAYS Preferred Agent — ABTA — IATA — ATOL

0171 757 2300 FLIGHTBOOKERS

*Call now for details and conditions - travel period November - 9 December 98 & 1 January - 15 March 99. Offer excludes all passenger taxes. All prices based on two people travelling together, based on twin share.

BEST OFFERS!!!

GO AMERICANA FAST TRACK!!!

(PRICES FR)		(PRICES FR)	
ABU DHABI	£299	LARNACA	£159
ACCRA	£378	LAS VEGAS	£338
ACAPULCO	£468	LILONGWE	£418
ADELAIDE	£559	LISBON	£129
ALBUQUERQUE	£398	LOS ANGELES	£329
AMMAN	£299	LUSAKA	£419
AMSTERDAM	£79	LYON	£149
ANTIGUA	£299	MADRID	£69
ATHENS	£159	MALAGA	£109
ATLANTA	£229	MALTA	£169
AUCKLAND	£559	MARSEILLE	£149
BAHRAIN	£299	MELBOURNE	£559
BALI	£468	MEMPHIS	£308
BALTIMORE	£229	MEXICO CITY	£379
BANGKOK	£349	MIAMI	£299
BARCELONA	£89	MILAN	£98
BARBADOS	£299	MINNEAPOLIS	£324
BASEL	£126	MONTEGO BAY	£369
BEIJING/PEKING	£399	MONTPELLIER	£149
BERMUDA	£499	MONTREAL	£259
BILBAO	£129	MOSCOW	£259
BOGOTA	£459	MUNICH	£89
BOLOGNA	£145	MUSCAT	£299
BOMBAY	£348	MYRTLE BEACH	£338
BORDEAUX	£149	NAIROBI	£328
BOSTON	£229	NASHVILLE	£308
BREMEN	£146	NASSAU	£349
BRISBANE	£559	NAPLES	£165
BRUSSELS	£78	NEWARK	£229
BUCHAREST	£195	NEW ORLEANS	£279
BUDAPEST	£194	NEW YORK	£198
BUENOS AIRES	£498	NICE	£119
BUFFALO	£289	OPORTO	£149
CAIRNS	£559	ORLANDO	£299
CAIRO	£268	OSLO	£119
CALGARY	£299	OTTAWA	£259
CANCUN	£399	PALMA	£179
CARACAS	£476	PALM SPRINGS	£368
CASABLANCA	£229	PARIS	£75
CHARLOTTE	£229	PERPIGNAN	£169
CHICAGO	£254	PERTH	£559
CINCINNATI	£298	PHILADELPHIA	£229
COLOGNE	£106	PHOENIX	£329
COSTA RICA	£399	PISA	£145
DALLAS	£279	PITTSBURG	£229
DAR ES SALAAM	£398	PORTLAND	£368
DARWIN	£559	PRAGUE	£149
DAYTONA BEACH	£348	PUERTO VALLARTA	£468
DELHI	£348	RALEIGH DURHAM	£268
DENVER	£298	RIGA	£176
DETROIT	£329	RIO DE JANEIRO	£465
DUBAI	£299	ROME	£89
DUSSELDORF	£69	SALT LAKE CITY	£348
EDMONTON	£298	SAN ANTONIO	£348
EL PASO	£348	SAN DIEGO	£329
ENTEBBE	£398	SAN FRANCISCO	£329
FARO	£168	SAN JUAN	£399
FRANKFURT	£128	SANTIAGO	£498
FREEPORT	£349	SAO PAULO	£465
FORT LAUDERDALE	£298	SARASOTA	£348
FORT MYERS	£348	SEATTLE	£399
GABORONE	£389	SEYCHELLES	£498
GENEVA	£118	SINGAPORE	£398
GENOVA	£146	SOUTH AFRICA	£365
GIBRALTAR	£169	STAVANGER	£156
GOTHENBURG	£125	STOCKHOLM	£126
GRAND CAYMAN	£423	ST LOUIS	£324
GRENADA	£299	ST LUCIA	£299
HALIFAX	£299	SYDNEY	£468
HAMBURG	£125	TAMPA	£299
HANOVER	£126	TEL AVIV	£179
HARARE	£498	TOBAGO	£299
HAVANA	£498	TOKYO	£428
HAWAII	£498	TORONTO	£249
HELSINKI	£186	TOULOUSE	£149
HONG KONG	£479	TUCSON	£368
HOUSTON	£279	TUNIS	£189
ISTANBUL	£198	VANCOUVER	£359
JEREZ	£180	VENICE	£145
JACKSONVILLE	£348	VERONA	£155
JAKARTA	£468	VIENNA	£179
KANSAS CITY	£348	WASHINGTON	£329
KATHMANDU	£428	WEST PALM BEACH	£348
KIEV	£309	WARSAW	£149
KINGSTON	£428	WICHITA	£348
KUALA LUMPUR	£438	WINNIPEG	£289
KUWAIT	£348	ZAGREB	£166
LAGOS	£458	ZURICH	£126

All fares listed are return from London (regional fares may vary) subject to Americana booking conditions and availability. Seasonal flight supplements will apply for differing travel periods. Airport tax included.

GO AMERICANA FAST - TRACK !!! 0171 637 7853

GO AMERICANA CONCORDE!! 0171 637 4107
GO AMERICANA FIRST CLASS!! 0171 637 3055
GO AMERICANA BUSINESS CLASS!! 0171 637 8485
GO AMERICANA ECONOMY CLASS!! 0171 637 7853

Fly to over thousand cities and save over 50% on Americana's favourite airlines, hotels, car rental!!!

OPEN 7 DAYS — AMERICANA VACATIONS PLC, 11 Little Portland St, London W1N 5DF. Americana Vacations Plc., ABTA D5685 acting as agents for ATOL holders. E-mail: [illegible] FACSIMILE: 0171 [illegible]

WORLDWIDE TOP VALUE TRAVEL INSURANCE 01892 833 338

TURKEY

LOVINGLY restored stone farmhouse & barn, slps 6, 4 private acres mountain olive grove. Nr Fethiye, 10 mins sea. V romantic! Tel: 01647 231372.

SIMPLY Turkey. Discover a delightfully different Turkey, away from the mainstream, with our unique range of rural cottages, villas with pools and friendly hotels. Plus our flexible wandering programme, special interest holidays, gulet cruising & Istanbul city breaks. 0181 995 9323 ABTA V1337 ATOL 1922 AITO

USA & CANADA

BEST Florida prices from the property rental specialists. Luxury homes and apartments in superb locations, Gulf Coast, Orlando, and Keys. For Colour brochure and friendly advice, Florida Rentals. 01822 865534.

NEW ENGLAND Connection - UK specialists for inspected homes to rent. 01306 677600

NEW York Holiday lets, really nice well maintained apts all in popular & safe locations. Our own representative meets you & greets you. Prices vary from £99 to £176 per night (smallest apt slps 4) Apartments International 0171 9353561 (open 7 days)

WINTER SPORTS

EXCLUSIVE all inc catered chalets for discerning Alpine skiers. Euroseeful Thomson specialist. Jl Catered Chalets. 0181 402 7842. www.jl-group.co.uk

PORTES DU SOLEIL Delightful old chalet sleeping 10 to 12, dates avail in 99. For further details please call 01420 22130.

U.K. HOLIDAYS

BOOK IT NOW! Great cottage holidays throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR '98 SUMMER '99 UK & EMERALD COTTAGE HOLIDAYS Pets go free - Discounts for couples CALL FOR '99 BROCHURE 01756 702225

Recommended COTTAGES Low deposits — 1st Choice — First Choice For Over 600 Dream Cottages Throughout The UK! 01751 475547

HIDEAWAYS COUNTRY & COASTAL COTTAGES OF CHARACTER AND DISTINCTION West Country, Wessex, the Heart of England and the South East. FREE Colour Brochure 01747 828000 (24hrs)

IT'S THE ONLY Brochure YOU'LL NEED 1000's of quality cottages throughout Britain from £167 per week & £75 per Short Break. PAY NO MONEY CALL FOR YOUR NEW 340 PAGE 1999 BROCHURE Country Holidays Quoting Code CK015A 08700 725 725

Classic Cottages — Just for the discerning — Free brochure featuring 350 selected West Country cottages 01326 565555

Cottage Holidays NEW BROCHURE OUT NOW! ONLY £5 INITIAL PAYMENT It's Better with Blakes! Widest choice of cottages, lodges and family fun holiday parks. BLAKES Holidays in Britain 08700 70 80 99

SHORT BREAKS A superb choice from the Scottish Highlands to Devon in over 50 destinations around Britain. London breaks & theatre packages • Country house hotels • Romantic weekends • Festive Breaks 0345 585 707 LOCAL CALL RATE, 24 HOURS Call now for your FREE Thistle Hotels Leisure Breaks brochure, or pick up a Highlife Breaks brochure from your travel agent. THISTLE HOTELS

World Offers. Prices from Budapest £184 rtn Lisbon £135 rtn Paris £75 rtn Hotels from £19. Book by 30th September

For thousands of World Offers call: 0345 222111 or see your Travel Agent

WORLD OFFERS BRITISH AIRWAYS The world's favourite airline

Fares are return from London and subject to availability and travel periods vary. Includes taxes correct at 19th August 1998. For details and conditions see your Travel Agent, British Airways Travel Shop or book and pay at our Web site: www.british-airways.com

ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS

HORSE Hire - No escorts. Trails 2-7 days. Wales. Stay farmhouse. FreeRein: 01497 821356

ACTIVITY & Special Interest holidays and w/ends for families, couples and groups. Over 150 things to do include watersports, airsports, motorsports, equestrian pursuits, walking, cycling, homecrafting, tennis, golf, arts & crafts, cooking, murder mysteries, bridge. Acorn Activities 01432-830083.

CORNWALL & DEVON

TORQUAY luxury flat quiet location sea views terrace gardens garage slps 4. 01803 [illegible]

SELWORTHY Exmoor, delux 2 bed cottage. Secluded. Superb views. Cancellation. 01643 862303.

DORSET, HANTS., & I.O.W.

DORSET Coastal Cotts. Old, cosy, much loved, especially in peaceful Sept/Oct 01305 852988

DORSET Coast Farmhouse, slps 12, 30 acres, 2 fishing lakes, wheelchair access. 01308 424321.

DORSET, HANTS., & I.O.W.

PAY no money now to reserve your Dorset holiday cottage - details with brochure. 08700 725 725 (CKD03C).

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL 3 nights from £109 Bed, breakfast & evening meal Large seafront hotel, entertainment indoor pool, jacuzzi, sauna "FREE CAR FERRY" Sandringham Hotel Seafront Sandown Isle of Wight Tel: 01983 406655 Xmas brochure now available

COTSWOLDS

ABSOLUTE comfort, highly recommended country cottages. Winchcombe (01242) 602390

EAST ANGLIA

AUTUMN birds flock to Norfolk's protected shores. Join the migration for a relaxing break in one of our comfortable s/c cottages. www.norfolk-cottages.co.uk or Tel: 01692 650286 for Norfolk Country Cousins brochure.

EAST ANGLIA Big beams, log fires, perfect rural retreat. Barn. Stanning North Norfolk. 01263 860693

RAC ★★★ The AA ★★★ BLAKENEY HOTEL BLAKENEY, NORFOLK Unique and envied position overlooking National Trust Harbour, 60 bedrooms, htd indoor pool, spa bath, saunas, mini gym & billiard/games rooms. Relax, sail, walk, birdwatch, play golf, explore the Norfolk villages, countryside & coast. • Midweek & Weekend Breaks • 4, 5 & 7 Day Holidays For a brochure telephone 01263 740797

EIRE

IRISH Country Holidays. You can choose from over 200 delightful cottages. Also touring, boating and horse drawn caravans. Special ferry discounts. For your free brochure call 01502 560688 (24 Hours)

EIRE

SHAMROCK COTTAGES. 264 select individual cottages in superb locations. Disc Fares. AITO. Col bro 01823 681060.

LAKE DISTRICT

CUMBRIAN COTTAGES 280 cottages all ETB inspected. Short brks avail. 01228 599960. www.cumbrian-cottages.co.uk

LANGDALE luxury houses, slps 2-10, good views, inc. leisure club with pool. 0161 904 9445

RATHER special cottages for two in a secret corner of southern Lakeland. 015395 34476

SUPER Lake District Cottages. Free 1999 full colour brochure. 01756 702208

MILLTHWAITE House, Windermere Thornbarrow Road, overlooking lake. All rooms ensuite (some with Jacuzzi baths) Satellite TV, teamaking, Sauna, Tylo Steam Room and heated indoor pool solely for our guests' use. 2 nights, 5 course Dinner B&B incl. VAT only £99, 3 nights only £146. Brochure: 015394 43636

LONDON

SAVE up to 50% on your London hotel bills. Quality hotels all centrally located. 2* to 5* from £29. 0181 770 0123-The Hotel Directory

NORTHUMBRIA

PAY no money now to reserve your Northumbria holiday cottage - details with brochure. 08700 725 725 (CKN03C).

PEAK DISTRICT

PEAK Cottages. Quality s/c accom. In Derbyshire Dales and Peaks. Brochure 01142 620777

SCOTLAND

ULLAPOOL Self catering bungalow, slps 4. STB commended. Vacancies Sept/Oct. 01854 666222 /01862 892178 (not Sunday).

Scotland DISCOVER ITS HIGHLANDS AND LOWLANDS Over 855 quality cottages Country Holidays NEW 1999 BROCHURE Quoting CK015S 08700 725 725

SCOTLAND

ST. Andrews. Quality, cosy, trad. cotts/farm hses. STB. Slp 2-14. Log fires. Broch 01382 330252

PAY no money now to reserve your Scottish holiday cottage - details with brochure. 08700 725 725 (CKS03C).

WONDERFUL Scottish Cottages. 1999 colour brochure. Phone now ☎ 01756 702212.

SUSSEX

SEDLESCOMBE Brickwall Hotel, Nr Battle. 1600 Tudor Manor. 2 Night breaks £108pp DBB. 3rd at accom free, pay only £30 for dinner & breakfast. Htd o/door pool. 3* AA & RAC. Est owner 71-97. 01424 870253

WALES

BEAUTIFUL quality properties around splendid Welsh coast. Log fires. Linen provided. Pets welcome free. Call for Colour brochure Quality Cottages 01348 837871.

GOWER Idyllic 17C farmhse. Ensuite, B&B £21.50. With dinner £28.50 Spectacular views. Fishing. Est. AA/RAC 01269 [illegible]

LUX Country hse htl. Close Wls Pembs Nat pk coastal path. Lge ensuite rms, superb view, multi choice menu. Chef/owner. Autumn special, 3 nights for 2, DBB, £94pp. 01348 872644. www.[illegible]

PAY no money now to reserve your Welsh holiday cottage - details with brochure. 08700 725 725 (CKW03C).

Wales EXPLORE ITS COAST, HILLS AND VALLEYS Over 380 quality cottages Country Holidays NEW 1999 BROCHURE Quoting CK015W 08700 725 725

PEMBROKESHIRE A superb selection of quality character cottages in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. All properties furnished to the highest standards. Phone now for free colour brochure 01239-881297 (24hrs)

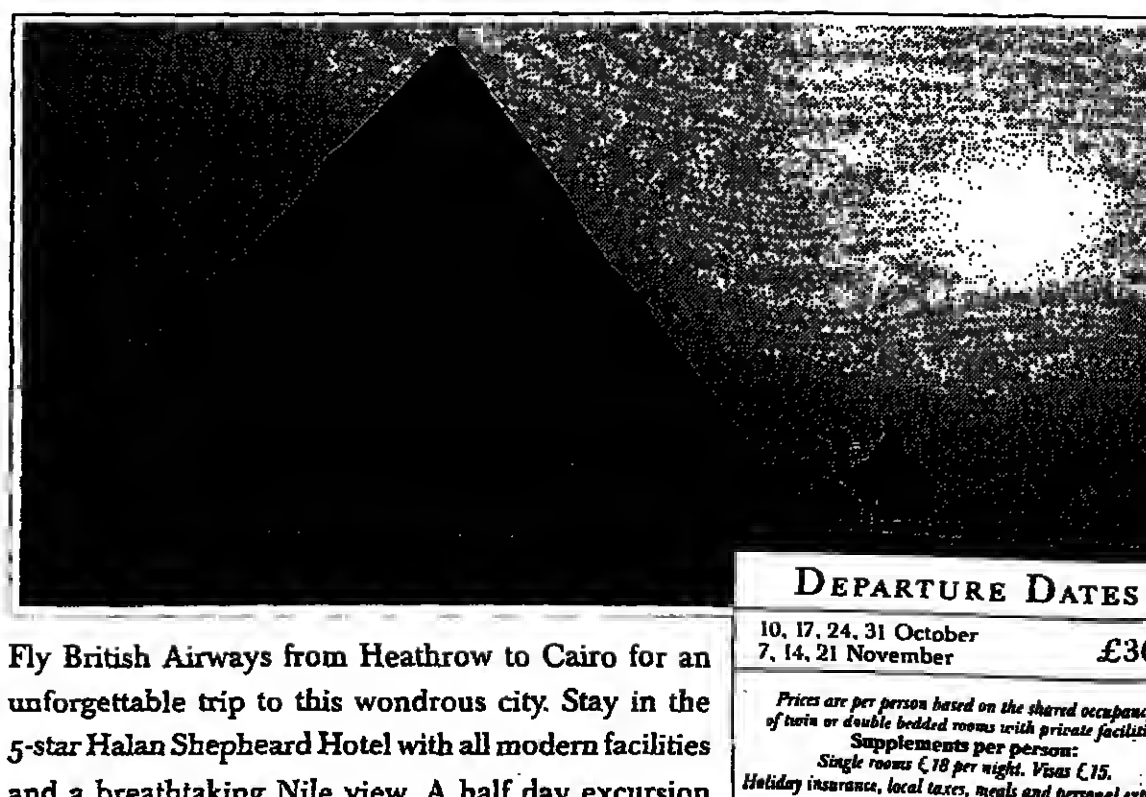
YORKSHIRE

YORK City Centre. Aug - Oct £31.00pp B&B. £41.00pp DB&B. Supplement for rooms & singles. All facilities. Car park. Abbots Mews Hotel. 01904 634866.

GENERAL OVERSEAS

Late Offer Cairo and the Pyramids for £369

Four night holiday ❖ 5-star comfort



DEPARTURE DATES

10, 17, 24, 31 October 7, 14, 21 November	£369

Prices are per person based on the shared occupancy of twin or double bedded rooms with private facilities.
Supplements per person:
Single rooms £18 per night. Visas £15.
Holiday insurance, local taxes, meals and personal expenses.

Fly British Airways from Heathrow to Cairo for an unforgettable trip to this wondrous city. Stay in the 5-star Halan Shepheard Hotel with all modern facilities and a breathtaking Nile view. A half day excursion to the Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx is included.

Please call today to avoid disappointment.

The Price Includes
❖ Scheduled flights from London Heathrow.
❖ 4 nights' bed & breakfast accommodation. ❖ All transfers.
❖ Excursion to the Pyramids and the Sphinx.
❖ Holiday delay insurance.
❖ Airport taxes, security charges and air passenger duty.
❖ Services of a local representative.

Optional Excursions
Half day Egyptian Museum - only £29 per person.

PAGE & MOY HOLIDAYS

Call Today

Brochure & Reservation Hotline **0116 250 7979**
Please quote ref: D00400
Weekdays 9am - 7.30pm, Saturdays 9am - 6pm, Sundays 10am - 4pm.

SPECIAL INTEREST

JOURNEY LATIN AMERICA Escorted Groups & Bespoke Tours 0181 747 8315 Flights-only 0181 747 3108 JLA Manchester 0161 832 1441

Welcome COTTAGE HOLIDAYS SUMMER '99 BROCHURE OUT NOW! OVER 1400 TO CHOOSE FROM • West Country • Dorset • Cotswolds • Heart of England • Norfolk/Suffolk • Peak District • Dales & Moors • Lake District • Northumberland • Wales/Pembroke • Scotland/Borders BEAT THE RUSH ... BOOK EARLY • Go IRELAND from £79.50 per person inc. ferry and cottage for 7 for 7 nights! 01756 702200 (24 HOURS) 180 PAGE NEW SEASON BROCHURE SUMMER BOOKINGS '99 NOW BEING TAKEN

PORTUGAL

PORTUGAL, MADEIRA & THE AZORES BOOK DIRECT & SAVE £100's! Low Budget & Luxury Holidays Hotels, Villas, Apts, Manors, Pousadas, Fly Drives, Coach Tours & Douro Cruises. (Packages, Flights on Acc. only) NEW direct flights Manchester - Oporto/Lisbon

RUSSIA

RUSSIA/Georgia/Ukraine independent travel. City Breaks e.g. Moscow from £351 Air Fares. Groups. INTERCHANGE 0181 681 3612 ATOL 2429

SPAIN

LA Manga World. Luxury villas & self catering apts, 50% discount tennis & golf. Brochure fax/phone 01626 873159

LOS Monteros, Marbella. Lux det 4 bed, 4 bath villa on 1 level, own pool & gdn. nr. beach club (0181) 3875588

MARBELLA Puente Romano, Luxury 2 dbl bed apt, owner rents direct, half hotel price. Avail throughout year. 0961 950161

MORAIRA 2Bed + 2Bath luxury Apt £70,000 Tel: 011797 33496 visitweb.com/[illegible]

SIMPLY Spain. Escape the mainstream with our unique range of farmhouses, country villas with pools and exquisite small hotels throughout Andalucia and Mallorca. 0181 995 9323. ABTA V1337 ATOL 1922 AITO

TUSCAN villa blah blah blah. Want something special? Try luxury in the Tuscan hills. 5 bzm w/4 poster & wrought iron beds, 4 bth w/sunken & corner bths & 2 prm shwr, antique furniture w/sat TV/VCR/CD. Pvt pool & grounds. Avail from 19/9 Tel/Fax 00 39 575 791 227

SPECIAL INTEREST

SKYROS The Holistic Experience. In Greece and the Caribbean. Tel: 0171 284 3065 or www.skyros.com/

TENNIS Holidays. The Jonathan Markson Algarve Tennis Centre Beautiful location. All ages & standards. Also Marrakesh & Oxford wks 0171 4600600 (24hr)

TENNIS, Golf & Leisure Holidays. Spain, Algarve, Caribbean, Florida & UK. Sports & Leisure Holidays TTA B6022 01794 500500

OKAVANGO TOURS & SAFARIS Simply the best for tailored holidays in: BOTSWANA ZAMBIA & MALAWI NAMIBIA, ZIMBABWE SOUTH AFRICA, TANZANIA INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS MADAGASCAR Tel: 0181 343 3283 email: info@okavango.com AITO ATOL

HAYES and JARVIS The jewel of Central America - once seen, never forgotten. An enchanting and vibrant land, adorned with volcanoes, tropical rainforests, unspoilt beaches and home to a myriad of colourful wildlife. THE GRAND TOUR OF COSTA RICA 14 nights from £1845 WEEKLY DEPARTURES CALL 0181 222 7844 res@hayes-jarvis.com

SPECIAL INTEREST

CORNWALL & DEVON

LARGEST selection of Tourist Board Inspected holiday cottages in North Devon and Exmoor. Marsdens Cottage Holidays. Tel: 01271 813777. www.marsdens.co.uk

LYNTON. Comfortable Holiday Cottage, Available Now. Sleeps 5. 01225 435549

N.CORNWALL Quality trad cottages. 14C. Every season/ 4 posters. Low rates. Tel: 01566 86246

CORNWALL & DEVON

ACCLAIMED cottages on both coasts of Cornwall & Scilly. Cornish Traditional Cottages. Brochure: 0990 134947. 7 day personal service 9 a.m - 9 p.m

CORNISH Country Manor Enchanting Tamar Valley 3 stn & b/b, ensuite, £98.00. 01822 832442.

BEAUTIFUL Cottage Rosehilled, St Mawes, nr beach, Halligon, glns. NT Houses. 01872 501214

CLASSIC Cottages. Over 350 select cottages in the West Country, long for the discerning. Brochure 01326 565555.

EXMOOR Porlock Bay. Elegant Edwardian Stone Cottage for luxury lazy days. 01643 862409.

DEVON Connection. Lovely thatched cottages & barns. Salcombe area. 01548 560964. www.devonconnection.co.uk

COTTAGES around Mullion Cove & The Lizard Peninsula. Broch: 01326 240315

FREE Colour guide to the 500 best value cottages in Devon (01271) 376322.

CORNWALL & Devon. 300 cottages throughout. Reasonable prices. Tel: 01752 260711

U.K. HOLIDAYS

FRANCE

CHANNEL CROSSINGS DOVER - CALAIS inc' 1 Night Hotel £99 RETURN CAR + PASSENGERS ANY DAY/TIME FREEPHONE 0321 372623

RAMBLING DOESN'T STOP......

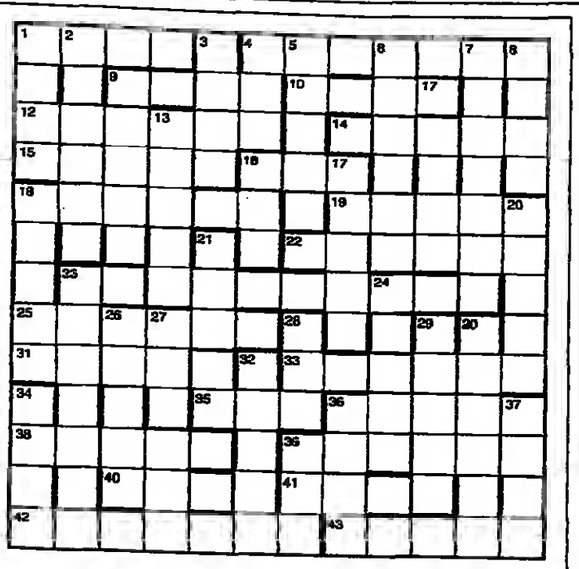
During Autumn and Winter, walk or trek, sightsee or explore, even cross-country ski to the hills and mountains, the beautiful and interesting places. We can take you close to home - the Lake District, to Europe - the Alps, the Mediterranean, Capital Cities. Morocco or further afield to New Zealand, South Africa, Nepal, the Far East or the USA. Our small escorted parties are graded to suit your ability, so forget the planning, enjoy the company and follow the leader.

RAMBLERS HOLIDAYS Established 1946 Tel: 01707 331133 Fax: 01707 333276 E-mail: ramhols@dial.pipex.com

شكراً من الاهل

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No. 3479: Belt Up by MynoT



LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3479
in association with Waterstone's

NAME.....

ADDRESS .....

.....

.....

Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to: The Listener Crossword No 3479, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, by Thursday, September 24.

W

WATERSTONE'S

The winner will receive a Waterstones book token worth £75. Five runners-up will each receive a book token worth £10.

Waterstone's first opened a bookshop in 1982, and now has a branch in almost every major town and city in the UK and Ireland. Each of its 100-odd branches has at least 50,000 titles in stock and can order any book currently in print in the UK. Out-of-Print Booksearch, 01892 522700. Mailing Service and Signed First Editions, 01225 448596. For your nearest branch of Waterstone's call 01225 448595.

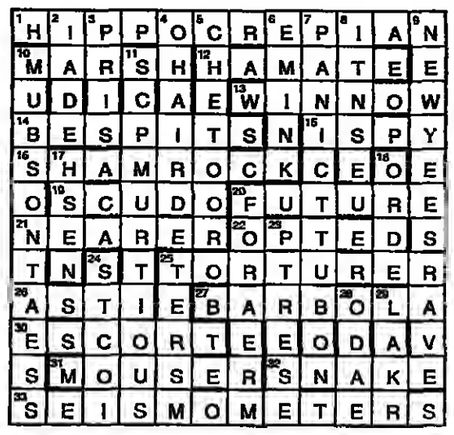
The unclued light at 23 across should fall naturally into place: to avoid confusion, however, solvers are requested to sign their entries.

ACROSS

1 Castrato's without issue — trouble follows (5)
4 Attribute for the thing meant getting me both ways (7)
9 Car's before them to perform — by the grace of God (4)
10 After a short time one Liberal will cause trouble (4)
12 It sounds like ancestral name lacking hints of title and illegitimate children (6)
14 Returning plough, unknown to the French type (5)
15 Wicket's square design (5)
16 Nut with fur round about (3)
18 Take a (sort of) horse to water and find a flower (6)
19 Start to receive help at end of nervous seizures (5)
22 Shrink unknown cloth (6)
23 See preamble
25 Arranging about Rose, transformed in disguise (6)
31 Grandmother's new coin (an old one) (5)
33 City opening providing digression (6)
35 Thus, perhaps, leaves key's tone together with note (3)
36 Make drunk partners in drink (5, two words)
38 Sweepers give nothing away to obtain conductive materials (5)
39 Shudders after mass disturbances (6)
40 Roof-gutter for bay, with spots on (4)
41 Whims propel values (4)
42 Drinks incite kiss with head to foot (7)
43 Have singular measure of inflation in string player (5)

DOWN

1 Snake is escaping invasion of bacteria (4)
2 Ordained Edward should follow peers (6)
3 Force produced in body-line bowling (4)
4 Note's small money (3)
5 Diver, missing iron, gets piece of live wood (5)
6 Nicola, travelling, might find this useful (6)
7 Cedar *sounds* like one: but willow *is* (7)
8 Ape grotesque figure (4)
9 Party on a duvet (5)
11 Thought to be very old derelict zoo covered in crushed ice (5)
13 Bring up root (5)
16 Knightly splendour not having long to yield gold (3)
17 Sin in company of Spanish lover, initially wooden (5)
18 Stone dog smashed in car (5)
20 Groom's English money? Yes and no (5)
21 Sixfooter without army regulation in America (5)
23 Gland requiring infusioo with two metals (7, two words)
24 Roman river's useless after one (5)
26 Mole fitted with a pacemaker (5)
27 Passage of music with new intervening sequence (6)
28 Move to the right in a fit of perversity (3)
29 Digs, with no alternative, in Opera House? On the contrary (5)
30 Controls missing in facilities for speech (6)
32 Star trap? (5)
34 Wear away nail in one (4)
36 Function of loose change (4)
37 Quiet exercise around boat (4)
39 Scoffs cereal in centre of Sussex (3)



Solution No 3476
Fundamentally Flawed by Monk

Corrected misprints in clue order spelt out the question: WHO SAID "I HAVE HAD A DREAM, PAST THE WIT OF MAN . . ." (in *ODQ4*), the answer to which is BOTTOM (end of Act IV, Scene 1, *AMND*), with ". . . thereafter, it's UP to you" in the preamble suggesting "BOTTOM UP", giving the two possible forms of treatment of all down lights (ie, half the entries): (a) the BOTTOM moved UP in 12 lights, eg (24) STCOI for STOIC and (b) synonyms for, or definitions of, BOTTOM turned UP in six lights, eg (11) SCPMURTIOUS for SCRUMPTIOUS. The single unchecking in all type-(a) lights ensured unique location of their shifted (always checked) letters.

The winner is Mrs J. Wild, of Sonning, Berkshire. Runners-up: R. Bell, of Hampton, London; D. A. T. Millar, of Belfast, Northern Ireland; L. A. Payman, of Middlesbrough, Cleveland; R. C. Bell, of Helston, Cornwall; J. D. H. Mackintosh, of West Wickham, Kent.

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THIS tough defensive problem is from one of the early matches of the 1998 BBL Premier League. The event is important both in its own right and as part of the selection process for the British team for the 1999 European Championship.

Dealer South. Game all IMPs

North: ♠ Q 10 5 2 ♥ Q 10 8 7 2 ♦ A K 5 4 ♣ -

West: ♠ J 9 6 4 3 ♥ J 9 5 4 3 ♦ 9 8 ♣ 5

East: ♠ K 8 7 ♥ K 6 ♦ Q 7 6 3 ♣ K 8 7 2

South: ♠ A ♥ A ♦ J 10 2 ♣ A Q J 10 9 8 4 3

S	W	N	E
2 C	Pass	2 H	Pass
3 C	Pass	3 D	Pass
5 C	Pass	6 C	All Pass

Contract: Six Clubs by South.
Lead: the nine of diamonds

These North-South cards are difficult to bid. Many pairs finished in 3NT, and there is no disgrace in that. But Six Clubs has better than a 50 per cent chance. If West does not lead a diamond, after cashing the ace of hearts and playing on trumps declarer can use a diamond entry to ruff one round of hearts. If that does not produce the king, he can fall back on the diamond finesse.

When North-South bid to Six Clubs after the above sequence, West found the best lead of a diamond. Declarer took the ace, crossed to the ace of spades and played on trumps. East won the second round and returned a trump, and now declarer ran off his trumps, coming down to a three-card ending in which dummy had Q 10 of hearts and the king of diamonds, and declarer the ace of hearts and J 10 of diamonds. East had to discard from K x of hearts and Q x of diamonds. Whichever red suit he unguarded, declarer could cash the high card in that suit and enter the other hand to cash the now established winner.

The article I read suggested that East could have beaten the contract by returning a heart when in with the king of clubs. At that point East knew declarer had started with eight clubs, J10x of diamonds (West's lead was the nine), and the ace of spades. Thus he could not have more than one heart and so a heart return would break up the criss-cross squeeze.

However, that still would not be good enough. Declarer's only chance is that East guards both majors as well as the diamonds.

Now, in the three-card ending, dummy keeps the major-suit queens and the king of diamonds; and declarer has J 10 of diamonds and a club. East cannot keep both major-suit kings and Qx of diamonds. And it is also easy for declarer to read — if one of the kings has not appeared, he has in play to the king of diamonds hoping the queen will fall.

WORD ANSWERS

Answers from page 36

REUNE
(a) To hold a reunion. American colloquialism. A back-formation from reunion.

SAUGRENU
(c) Absurd. The French word. "If we take 'chevalier' as addressed by Christ to the poet, do we not get merely a retort — frigid and, by reason of the historical association, a little saugrenu?"

PABLUM
(c) Proprietary name of a children's breakfast cereal. Used figuratively.

PLOSHCHADKA
(c) In Ukrainian sites of the neolithic period, a raised area or platform, of burnt clay from the debris of collapsed buildings. The Russian word means ground or platform.

TWO BRAINS

Answers from page 36

Question 1
112, 105. The numbers alternately increase by nine or decrease by seven.

Question 2
James I. All the others were violently deposed.

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

THE chess events at the second Mind Sports Olympiad held at the Novotel in West London at the end of August attracted three British grandmasters: Stuart Conquest, former British champion James Plaskett and Aaron Summerscale, who captured the gold, silver and bronze medals respectively. An interesting entry came from the entire Ukranian Ladies team, who collected several medals.

One of the most attractive games was played by *Times* reader Alexander Baron, who was kind enough to send me the following. White's opening play is overambitious and Black deftly demonstrates the continuing truth that unsupported wing activity is best refuted by a central counter-punch. The real pleasure to be obtained from this game, though, is Black's sparkling conclusion with sacrifice of bishop and queen to force checkmate.

White: Yasser Tello; Black: Alexander Baron
Mind Sports Olympiad 1998
Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6
3 Nf3 d6

There are only two ways for Black to take advantage of White's sequence and prevent d4. One is 3 . . . e5 and the other is 3 . . . Nd4. But it is better to stay in the main lines.

4 d4 cxd4 5 Nxd4 Nf6
6 Be4

A direct method of attack favoured both by Bobby Fischer in his day and also by Nigel Short.

6 . . . e6 7 f4 Be7
8 f5

White is imbued with aggression but safe and sound is 8 Be3.

8 . . . d5

The traditional counter-thrust to a mistimed wing attack is to react in the centre.

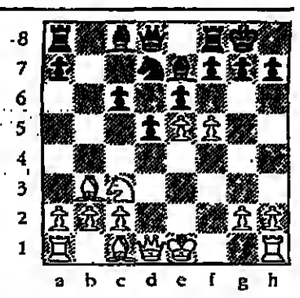
9 Bb3

White still dreams of blasting his way through to the black king. Instead, the moment had come to cut his losses with 9 exd5 exd5 10 Bb5.

9 . . . 0-0 10 Nxc6 bxc6
11 e5

Utterly consistent, but Black is well able to weather the storm.

11 . . . Nd7



What White now tries has a hint of desperation although it could easily prove dangerous.

12 f6 gxf6

If now 13 Bh6 Nxe5 14 Bxf8 Bxf8 with more than adequate compensation for the loss of the exchange. This, though, was probably White's best chance.

13 exf6 Bxf6 14 0-0 Kh8
15 Qe2

The wrong square. White should hurl his forces into a direct attack by means of 15 Qh5.

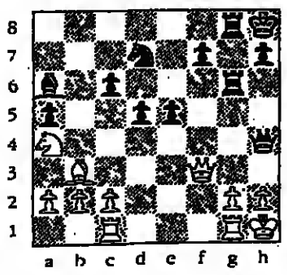
15 . . . a5 16 Qf3 Ba6
17 Rd1 Rg8 18 Bf4 e5
19 Bg3

White has run out of steam.

19 . . . Qe7 20 Na4

White had no choice but to sacrifice with 20 Bxd5 cxd5 21 Nxd5.

20 . . . Rg6 21 Rac1 Rag8
22 Kh1 Bh4
23 Bxh4 Qxh4 24 Rg1



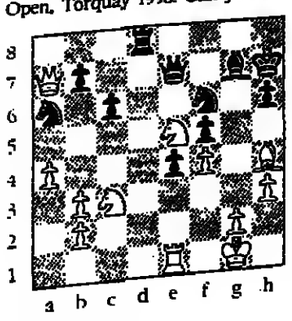
Black's combination to force checkmate is both efficient and beautiful.

24 . . . Be2
25 Qxe2 Qxh2+
26 Kxh2 Rh6+ White resigns

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Hodge v Marsh, Major Open, Torquay 1998. Can you see White's clever tactic which led to a decisive material gain?



The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. Answers, on a postcard please, addressed to: Winning Move competition, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to last week's competition: 1 Qxg4

The winner is Rafa Mohol Kamil, of Southampton, Hampshire.

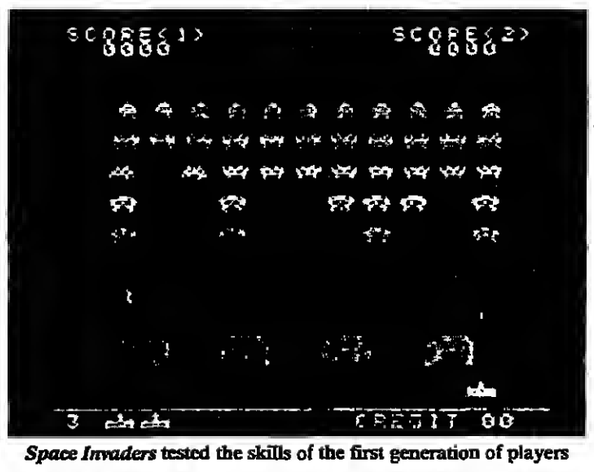
COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

THE FIRST wave of computer game fever arguably swept Britain in the late 1970s, with the arrival of *Space Invaders*. Before that we did have game consoles in the home, but they were so basic that today's younger generation cannot understand how we coped.

The early consoles plugged into the television and delivered, in essence, just one game with minor variations on a monotonous theme. It was a form of telly tennis, in which you batted the oversized, ricocheting cursor around the screen. There were two drawbacks to this sitting room invader. First, the entertainment was so dreary that it was only marginally more gripping than *Crossroads*, the Midlands motel television soap. Second, if played too much for too long the game images burnt into the screen leaving faint but ever-present shadows. It was clear that a gaming breakthrough was needed and soon enough it arrived, gripping this nation along with most of the others around the world.

When *Space Invaders* hit Earth it was a phenomenon. It was fast and exciting, a real white-knuckle experience. Those who lasted longest on a *Space Invaders* machine in the pub were revered as demigods and were bought drinks all night long.



Space Invaders tested the skills of the first generation of players

Lines of invaders marched in crab-like descent on to our planet and you had to dodge their shots, then wipe them out — or be killed.

Two decades on, *Space Invaders* is set to return. So far the game has reportedly netted $500m for its Japanese owners, Taito. Now it has earned even more, with Activision splashing out an undisclosed amount for the rights to the game throughout the world (except Japan). With such a surge of interest in the 1970s, I would not be at all surprised to see a return of *Ziggy Stardust* and, of course, his *Spiders From Mars*. Watch this space.

TALKING of games deals, the ECTS event (Europe's biggest computer and technology trade show, formerly known as the European Computer Technology show) blew into London for three days last week. Wimbledon-based Eidos Interactive undoubtedly pulled off the best photo-opportunity of the show. It wheeled out the two biggest canons on its roster — Lara Croft and Michael Owen. Lara Croft is a fictitious animated creation, yet she appeared in the flesh, with model Nell McAndrew playing the tomboy.

Ms McAndrew, or rather Ms Croft, appeared at Olympia to promote the third game in the best-selling *Tomb Raider* series. The latest incarnation, imaginatively entitled *Tomb Raider III*, will arrive in time to stake its claim on the Christmas sales chart.

Michael Owen, Eidos's biggest signing of the year, will front the reworked *World League Soccer*. It will be called *Michael Owen's World League Soccer '99* and is scheduled for release in the last week of November. The ink is still wet on the exclusive three-year deal struck between the England and Liverpool striker and Eidos.

He motion-capture posed for, and then extensively played, the original version of *World League Soccer*, released in March this year, before deciding on a long-term commercial association with the game. An elated Geoff Brown, chairman of the game's developer Silicon Dreams, said: "He sought us out and we couldn't get a better endorsement."

The 18-year-old star striker is now working with Mr Brown's company, based in Banbury, on the action football game which has actual star players competing in a fantasy world league.

Owen's version has a new game engine and features Dolby surround sound, enhanced artificial intelligence, skinned texture mapping to make the players appear more life-like and camera coverage with rolls, pans and zooms. If the full version plays as good as it sounds, it will be a winner.

For the past two years, Lara has reigned supreme atop the Christmas charts but, thanks to some in-house competition from Owen, her chances of a hat-trick at the tills might now be dashed. Eidos would pride itself on an own-goal of this kind — because either way it will be doing brisk business from these two important pin-ups in the most lucrative season of the year.

NEW SOFTWARE

IT'S A sin to tell a lie. So sang Fats Waller. It is a bigger sin to waste an opportunity. So says I.

The ability to lie successfully, or not, is the basis for Blackfriar's Lie Detector. The software comes with "ultra-sophisticated hardware" — which is a great lie. What you get is a length of wire, which plugs into a comms port, with two sensors on a strip of Velcro to attach to a finger. This is supposed to monitor invisible increases in emotion-triggered perspiration, and thus calculate the honesty of your answers.

You feel a slight tingle in your finger and numbing of the mind as you answer successive questions with yes or no answers. Are you jealous by nature? Are you stubborn? Are you scared of spiders?

Answers appear on a mapping graph with peaks in the red zone indicating you are telling porkies. I said I was scared of spiders which is true — if embarrassing to admit here — yet the Lie Detector told me that I was not.

The truth is, this could have been so much more inspired. An ingenious espionage caper could have been built around the detector, perhaps with players assuming the role of a double agent being interrogated in the trademark blinding light.

Anything would have been better than: "Do you wash often enough?" **Verdict: 5 out of 10. Want the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth? It stinks! £19.99.**

YOUR correspondence over the years has shown that many readers enjoy oriental parlour games such as mah-jong, so you are in for a treat with Mahjongg Master.

This "mah-jongg" is a shape-matching game. To play you must find pairs of tiles showing identical symbols. The tiles are arranged on several levels — like a small, flat pile — and only those on outside edges can be taken.

Lie detector: sophisticated (?)

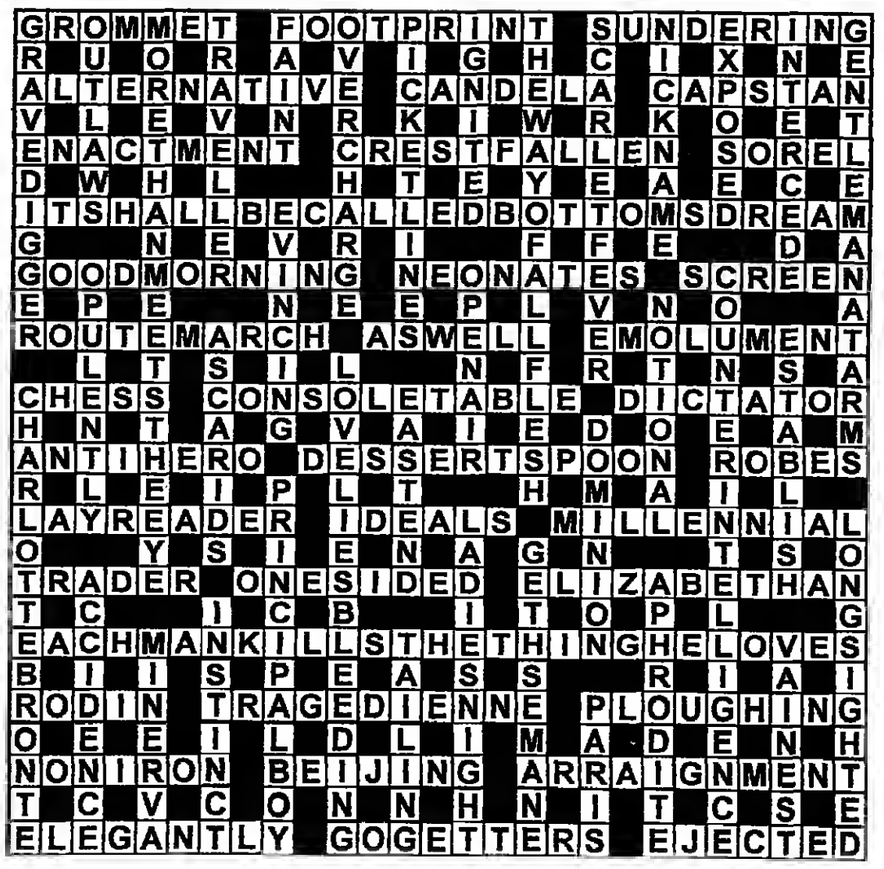
Here you get 18 tile sets and 70 backgrounds. The title makes a fine change to that other compelling time-waster, computer solitaire. The music is minor but pleasingly palatable: oriental sounds peppered with gentle rock beats. This can also be switched off.

As engaging for total novices as for mah-jong veterans, the hint button explains the simple rules. Some themes are extraordinarily challenging, like the near-impossible tile set with backings featuring stars in the night skies — if you can do this one you really are a mah-jong master.

You can shuffle the tiles at any time to begin again.

For Windows '95, the game accommodates one or two players and has four levels of difficulty. From the Galaxy Game Master Series, the title is imported here by Software Partners (for stockists, telephone 01480 466111). **Verdict: 8 out of 10. If you like mah-jong, you will love this. £19.99.**

SOLUTION TO BANK HOLIDAY JUMBO 182



The winners of £100 are Neil Kessel, of Stockport, Cheshire; Mr V.C. Moss, of Badminton, Gloucestershire; Mrs Jean Sweeney, of Southport, Merseyside; Mrs Mary FitzSimon, of Llanpumsaint, Wales; Mr Keith Hartland, of London; Harry Smith, of Redale, North Yorkshire.

The cat's whiskers: Sprite

MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times, Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

Q I have one daughter aged 12, and four sons aged ten, eight, four and 22 mooths. My daughter can be styled "Miss E Pullin", whatever her age, but when does "Master Pullin" become "Mr Pullin"? — *Catherine Pullin, Worcester.*

A Your sons are still within the traditional catchment area, which suggests that boys cease to be "Master" around their 13th birthday. However, some children find this sobriquet slightly old-fashioned and embarrassing and try to wriggle out of it earlier. One somewhat worldly youngster told me that he felt a man made the rite of passage from Master to Mr as soon as he had his own bank account. Such is the triumph of materialism over convention.

Q Recently I have read two biographies of Frances Trollope, famous Victorian authoress and mother of Anthony Trollope. Both biographies refer to her father as the Reverend Milton, a clerk of holy order. I have always understood that the correct tide should be the Reverend William Milton or the Reverend Mr Milton and a clergyman as being a clerk in holy orders. Frequently one reads and hears of clergy referred to as the Rev. Is this now permissible? — *Cedric Parsons, Long Ashton, Bristol.*

A The word reverend is an ascription and is used when addressing envelopes and when referring to him for the first time, eg, the Reverend Phineas Proudie. Thereafter he would be addressed as either Mr Proudie or, in high church circles, by the fragrant epithet of Father. The same convention applies when starting a letter. The abbreviation of Rev is acceptable, but only in print and not in speech. As you rightly suppose, a cleric is a clerk in holy orders.

Q Both my husband and I are the first generation of our respective families to be able to send our children to public school. Our son is about to join one of the best and we are worried about how to address "grand" parents properly, who might have titles, and thus not embarrass our boy. For instance, do such people take precedence when making introductions? — *Name and address supplied.*

A Public schools are positively bursting with first-time families and are much less snobbish than people imagine. However, here are a few pointers to put you at your ease. With the exception of dukes and duchesses, the distinctive titles of peers, ie, marquess, earl, viscount and baron are never used in conversation. Instead they are, for instance, addressed as Lord Barsetshire, with their womenfolk being consequently styled as Lady Barsetshire. A knight or baronet is for example, Sir Patrick, while his wife uses the surname and is thus Lady Palliser.

Q Some time ago you gave advice on dealing with bedclothes when staying with friends or relatives. But these days when so often duvets are used, I am not quite sure whether to strip the covers as I understand it takes some effort to put them on again. My husband and I seldom stay more than three nights and the last time I simply folded the pillow cases and bottom sheets and left the duvets at the foot of the beds, folded in half. But what is correct? — *Joanne Atkinson, Spalding, Lincs.*

A Duvet covers are really just padded and insulated sheets, and thus should be treated like any other bed linen. They come into contact with the sleeper and therefore should be removed in exactly the same way. No hygienically minded hostesses should disapprove.

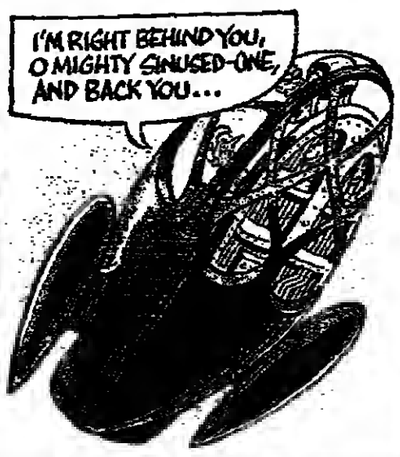
Q What is the correct use of toothpicks at table? Some people use them discreetly, with their dinner napkin as a shield. I find this practice unpleasant and would prefer that they either left the table temporarily or that they waited patiently until the end of the meal. — *Beryl Rosenbaum, Pinner, Middlesex.*

A Strange as it may seem, toothpicks are considered acceptable. The polite method is to conceal the tool in the rolled-up fist of the left hand, which is simultaneously cupped by the right. The impression should hover somewhere between that of resting briefly on your hands and praying. But I, too, find the habit unattractive.

Q Some friends, who live in London, are determined to keep their house impregnable to hordes of rampaging visigoths. They are extremely hospitable, so I often find myself summoned to a dinner or lunch, and on ringing the door bell find it irritating to have to stand on the doorstep listening to endless scrapings and clankings while all the various bolts and chains are removed. However security-conscious one is, would it not be a courtesy to invited and punctual visitors to let down the drawbridge prior to their arrival? — *Helen Gordon, London W11.*

A Having the distinct feeling of arriving at Bluebeard's Castle is not the most convivial way to begin an evening. It would be much more friendly for your friends to undo the majority of their bolts, locks and other security devices immediately prior to the arrival time of guests. In this way they would give the impression of being relaxed and welcoming hosts.

● *The author is associate editor of GQ*



WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

REUNE
a. To hold a reunion
b. A flood ditch
c. A Malagasay coin

SAUGRENU
a. Green butter sauce
b. Half-naked
c. Absurd

PABLUM
a. A caulillower ear
b. A smoking chimney
c. A children's cereal

PLOSHCHADKA
a. A sable hat
b. Turnip soup
c. A clay platform

Answers on page 35

TWO BRAINS

by Raymond Keene

THE Creativity Championship at the Mind Sports Olympiad, sponsored by Swindon Borough Council, set the 25 contestants a number of intriguing questions. The one that appealed to me was to describe the consequences of finding a sea of chocolate on Mars. The winner was Bruce Birchall who tied with David Bodycombe, author of the book *The Mammoth Puzzle Carnival* (Robinson, £6.99). Birchall won the gold medal on tie-break. The answer to the chocolate question that I liked best was that Belgium and Switzerland instantly joined the space race.

Question 1
What are the next two numbers in this sequence? 97, 106, 99, 108, 101, 110, 103, ??, ??

Question 2
Which is the odd one out? Charles I, James I, Edward II, Richard II, Richard III

CROSS WORDS

by Brian Greer

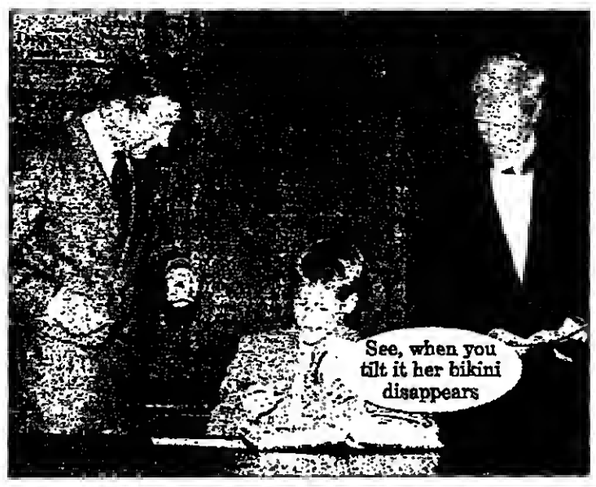
By all accounts, the Crossword Championship went smoothly, with Mike Laws and Richard Browne (Jumbo and Crossword Two editors respectively) standing in for me. The Londoo regional finals were won by Peter Biddlecombe and John Green, and the national final by Alastair Sutherland, 62, a retired GP from Glasgow, averaging just under ten minutes for the four puzzles. The fastest time for any puzzle, less than four-and-a-half minutes, was achieved by John Henderson, a former champion, as a member of the audience at the final.

A reader expressed doubt about my report some time ago that Paul Henderson (no relation) had completed a puzzle in less than two-and-a-half minutes. He found it took him that long simply to fill arbitrary letters into a grid. I have to confess to being ill-informed. Mr Henderson's time was incorrectly announced as two-and-a-half minutes and this error passed into the mythology. Having checked with him, I can now state that the time was three-and-a-half minutes; moreover, because of the system used, this actually meant between three-and-a-half and four. This account is willingly corroborated by Roy Dean, who continues to hold the official world record of three minutes 45 seconds, achieved under more precisely controlled conditions in a BBC studio in 1970. As with the state of Schrödinger's cat, we will never know on which side Mr Henderson's time lay, but he is content that it stands as a remarkable feat. Mr Dean comments that he believes today's crosswords are more difficult, so his record may stand for a long time.

In relation to the most well-known *Times* Crossword myth, a correspondent from Eton has informed me that the school's Provost, who supposedly timed his egg by solving the crossword, was in reality "a keen but inexpert solver, often still baffled by a clue or two at dinner time". Can anyone shed further light?

● *The writer is crossword editor of The Times*

PICTURE LINE



READERS are invited to guess what was said when Prime Minister Tony Blair and Minister for Trade and Industry Peter Mandelson inspected a fighter-jet cockpit at the Farnborough Airshow.

This picture will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted. Send your "speech bubble" suggestions — only on postcards please — to: PictureLine, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, September 16.

Last week's winning caption (left) was submitted by Barry Stephens of Faversham, Kent.

REUTERS

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"It's too strong to call it an obsessive compulsive disorder." — *Psychologist Oliver James on Tony Blair's love of pop music*

"I am sure Michael Owen won't be surprised to learn that he is a gay heart-throb." — *Boy George*

"I love football and am a great supporter of those who broadcast it." — *Peter Mandelson, Trade and Industry Secretary*

"Many imported norses are entirely delightful, but few speak much English. Imported doctors have the same difficulty. Bit by bit, all conversations about health will have to be conducted in pidgin English with sign language." — *Auberon Waugh*

"One could never make love to a woman with a glottal stop." — *Well-spoken art critic Brian Sewell on changing English accents*

"If we lose this ballot, we could be out of office for a generation." — *Tory leader William Hogue on the snap poll he is calling on the single currency*

"I don't think I am writing books for people too stupid to wear their baseball caps the right way round." — *Terry Pratchett, best-selling author*

"I eat lamb and will continue to. I have a French mother, and food comes first and risk afterwards." — *Lord Sainsbury, Minister for Science*

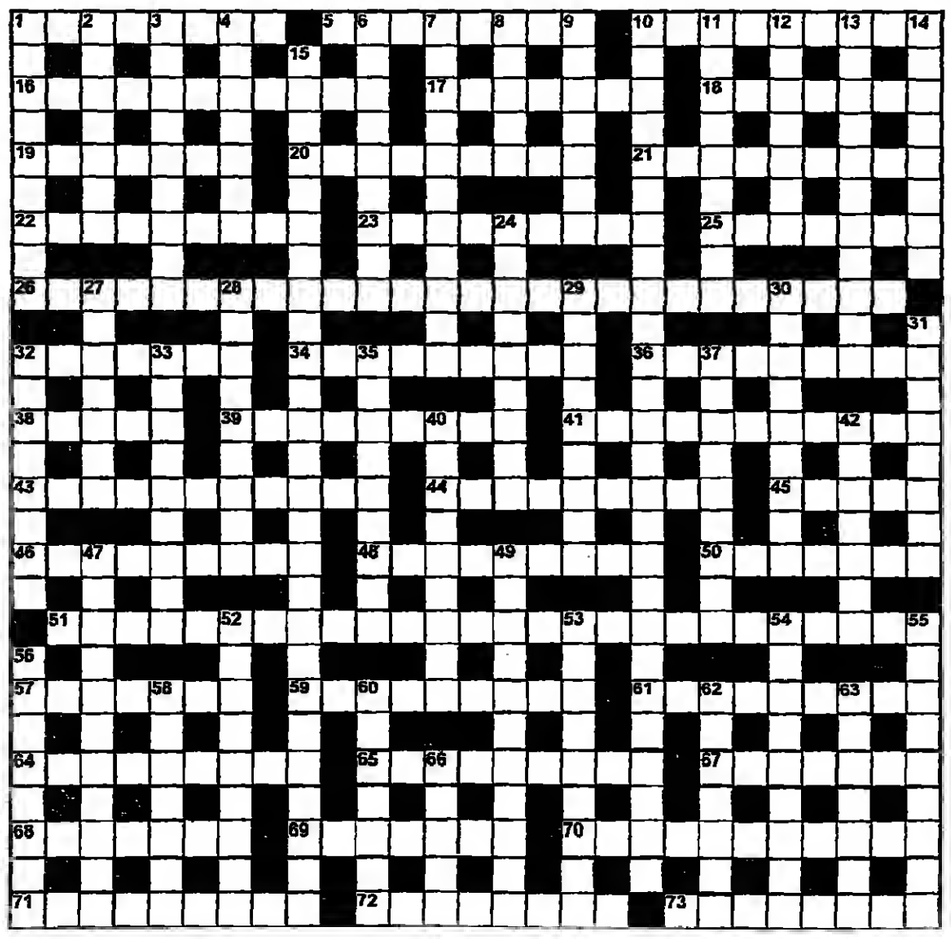
"The report contains substantial and credible information that may constitute grounds for impeaching the President." — *Spokesman for Kenneth Starr, the independent investigating counsel*

"We should change the name of the town." — *Citizen of Clinton, North Carolina*

"We have got nothing to go on." — *Policeman Nigel Boynton reporting on the theft of 30 potties from a Harrogate shop*

JUMBO CROSSWORD 185

The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be a collection of five Oxford University Press titles, the world's most trusted reference books, valued at more than £100. Included are *The Oxford English Reference Dictionary* and *The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Quotations*. Entries should be sent to: *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN to arrive by September 24.
The name of the winner will be published on September 26.



NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

..... POSTCODE .....

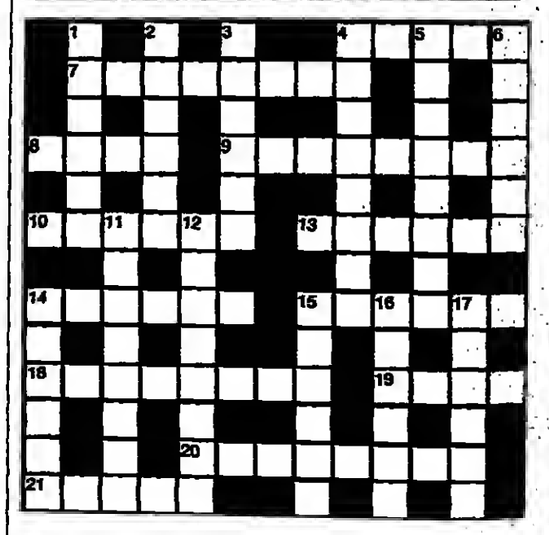
ACROSS

1 Pre-eminent woman of fashionable clubs featured in papers (8)
5 Sloth-like Prime Minister backing foregn state (8)
10 Unwise and timid police both stopping short to regroup (9)
16 How its Queen might secure her realm from the sea? (11)
17 Send out untrained here? The reverse (7)
18 Ring oil works for solvent (7)
19 Roman general — one with firm hold, reportedly (7)
20 Eglantine variant is unattractive (9)
21 One is stretched to offer support (9)
22 Watch over shelter for this type of fever (9)
23 Able to stretch out by quiet part of garden (9)
25 Fate incidentally has time to supplant power (7)
26 Line of Genesis — or genesis of line? (4,3,6,7,2,4)
32 Ring to cancel letters from America (7)
34 My speech may have been prompted from the wings, ultimately (9)
36 Volunteers abandoning university developing drug (9)
38 It/her gets confused for his/her (5)
39 Suspected pages dismissed by canon (9)
41 Position car for review, demonstrating various strengths in turn? (11)
43 Convict comparatively silly English mercenary (11)
44 Utter too much in loco parentis? (9)
45 Difficulty over mother country (5)
46 What the lazy are and do? (9)
48 Livy robbed of heart in revision of veteran historian (9)
50 Backing group among artistes I meticulously list (7)
51 Enter true proverb "A stitch . . . nine" in another form, right away! (10,2,6,4,4)
57 Each day a skin's evenly discarded — showing this (7)
59 American volume with answer to Timothy, letter by letter (9)
61 Tamer's shaken after almost terrifying experience (9)
64 Lover like Robin — and Marian, too, oddly (9)
65 Musical composition prize for French state (3-6)
67 Design seen in torn old clothing (7)
68 Temperature — with illness following (7)
69 For instance, anyone initially born middle of eighty-six is about to be this (7)
70 Geographical arrangement's not good for islands (11)
71 Short poem on god that has lines all in one part (9)
72 Mostly fake new leather (8)
73 Tease the silly one like Oscar Wilde (8)

DOWN

1 Regular feature of occult rites (9)
2 Between school vacations introducing one for stopgap (7)
3 Natural beauty of the Needles? (9)
4 Refuse Roman general taking on German leaders (7)
6 Sipped, say, cocktail giving unpleasant feeling in the stomach (9)
7 Period of change points to a long time with first wife (3,5,3)
8 Going up by route, not all of it main artery (5)
9 Reading's eastbound platform is shorter than longest expresses, at first (7)
10 Love song — on a streetcar named desire, presumably? (1,4,2,5,2,3,9)
11 Lie detector to work steadily without old chart (9)
12 Boat that sometimes goes to Havana (7)
13 Thus opening up parking in this place where we live (11)
14 Talk deals with accepting new source of energy (8)
15 Sweet memory inspired this poetic line (3,2,5,5,5,3,3)
24 Defend author giving shelter to dishonourable chap (9)
27 Keen-sighted girl getting round smashed ace (7)
28 Pull down girl's cloak (9)
29 Without question, play particular character generating real existence (9)
30 Mediocre dancing role making chart entry (9)
31 Supply help in sound fortification (8)
32 Top room is getting marks for elegance of style (8)
33 Russian writer left nought in Vermont, curiously (9)
35 Take turns running Asian region (9)
37 Rock salmon, apparently one that contains poison (9)
40 One who is religious teacher (9)
42 Limits stitch that is universal (7)
47 Shining example of a preserving process (11)
49 Set out to make people cross (11)
52 Returning affection (9)
53 Mongol conqueror taking safer route? (9)
54 Food intake — cutting mass will make no difference (9)
55 Travelled on bus to follow chosen conductor (9)
56 Main source of plant growth in summer is temperature (8)
58 With flaws soundly celebrated in legend (7)
60 Like some waitresses don't put as much cream on? (7)
62 Fish scrap done up with a dash of ketchup in dish (7)
63 Mean woman is in the latter part of life (7)
66 Top band of jewellers (5)

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1509

ACROSS

4 Fulcrum (5)
7 Unaltered; unusual (8)
8 Rock grains; to polish (4)
9 Hamlet's mother (8)
10 Abolish (law) (6)
13 Stir up (trouble) (6)
14 Large number (of magician's rabbits?) (6)
15 Forge (6)
18 Cautious (8)
19 Leave car; green area (4)
20 Royal residence; a hat (8)
21 Vietnam capital (5)

DOWN

1 Comfort in distress (6)
2 A waist-tie (6)
3 Gaelic hero, has Cave (6)
4 A stage (8)
5 Powerful (disease, hatred) (8)
6 Innate skill (6)
11 Multi-signature request (8)
12 Largest UAE sheikhdom (3,5)
14 Seat on elephant (6)
15 Grave, formal (6)
16 Contaminated (6)
17 Barrier for jumping over (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 1508
ACROSS: 2 Pangloss 6 Hussar 8 Bundle 9 Outback 10 Garth 12 Tub-thumper 16 Gregarious 18 Video 20 Sidings 21 Walnut 22 Energy 23 Latitude
DOWN: 1 Cumulus 2 Preclude 3 Grudge 4 Order 5 Seethe 7 Sabotage 11 Artifice 13 Pharisee 14 Luggage 15 Avowal 17 Robust 19 Delft

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE!
The Times Two Crosswords (Book 7-£4.99), The Times Crosswords (Book 20 Cryptic-£4.99). The Times Jumbo Crosswords Book 3 is available to Times readers for just 4 (RRP£4.99) while supplies last from The Times Bookshop.
The Times Computer Crosswords on disk may also be ordered, with free delivery, along with any other books from The Times Bookshop.
To order simply call 0990 134 459 for credit card orders or for further details. If paying by cheque/PO please make payable to News Books/Crosswords and send to: The Times Bookshop, PO Box 345, Falmouth, TR11 2YX. Delivery in 10-14 days and subject to availability.

هكذا من الاصل